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Inter-Arab Affairs

Austrian Official on Talks With 'Abd-al-Majid

NC3101212293 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1307 GMT 31 Jan 93

[Text] Cairo, 31 Jan (MENA)—Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid today received Austrian National Council President Dr. Heinz Fischer and his accompanying delegation. During the meeting they reviewed the latest international and regional developments of common concern. After the meeting Fischer said that a number of important issues were discussed, primarily peace in the Middle East. He stressed his country's support for continuing the peace process.

Fischer said that when Austria was a Security Council member it supported Resolution 799, which demands the return of the Palestinian deportees to their homes, noting that his country's stand on the issue is unchanged. He called on Israel to respect international resolutions and human rights in the occupied Arab territories.

Fischer noted that the situation in Bosnia-Hercegovina and the new Yugoslavia was reviewed. He stressed that his country is deeply concerned about the tragic and deteriorating situation in that area, which adversely affects the current Geneva conference on peace in Bosnia-Hercegovina. Concluding his statement, he said that he listened to the Arab views on the Libyan-Western crisis and expressed hope that a peaceful solution will be found.

Maghreb Foreign Ministers To Meet 12 Feb

LD0102175893 Tunis Tunisian Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 1 Feb 93

[Text] A communique issued today by the General Secretariat of the Arab Maghreb Union [AMU] says that, at the invitation of the Tunisian Republic and following consultations with member countries, the AMU Foreign Ministers' Council will hold its 12th ordinary session in Tunis on 12 February. The 24th session of the Follow-Up Committee will meet on 11 and 12 February in the Tunisian capital.

The agenda will consider, in particular, the process of building the AMU and the executory programs during the current presidency session, in consolidation of the Maghreban integration process, in addition to the exchange of views and consultation on the total sum of issues of common interest, and the most important current international developments.

Islamic Affairs

ICO Reaffirms Support for Izetbegovic

LD0102232493 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2145 GMT 1 Feb 93

[Text] Jeddah, 1 Feb (SPA)—Hamid al-Gabid, secretary-general of the Islamic Conference Organization [ICO], has expressed the organization's concern about the impasse in the Geneva talks held under the auspices of the chairman of the steering committee that emanated from the international conference on former Yugoslavia.

Regarding the tragic situation in Bosnia-Hercegovina, Dr. al-Gabid reaffirmed in a statement today the ICO's full support for His Excellency Alija Izetbegovic, president of Bosnia-Hercegovina, and for his government and people at this critical stage. The ICO secretary-general made it clear that the bureau of the sixth Islamic summit, convened in Dakar 11 January 1993, expressed among other things that it shares with President Izetbegovic his concern about the map proposed by the chairman of the conference. He expressed his conviction that the map, which divided Bosnia-Hercegovina into regions on the basis of a fait accompli, constituted a reward for the aggressor and provided legitimacy, in certain aspects, to the policy of ethnic cleansing which has been condemned by the international community. He believes in the need for demanding that the Serbs should put their heavy weapons under effective international control as the London conference demanded.

The ICO secretary-general expressed hope that the just concern of the Government of the Republic of Bosnia-Hercegovina will be reflected in the agreements currently being prepared for a lasting settlement of the crisis, and he urged the [UN] Security Council to respond to the demands of the ICO, included those contained in UN General Aassembly resolution 121/47 on the political independence, territorial sovereignty, and integrity of Bosnia-Hercegovina by fully carrying out the commitments made at the London conference.

Palestinian Affairs

PLO Rejects Proposal For Return of Some Deportees

LD0102180393 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 1 Feb 93

[Text] Brother Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh has made the following statement to the Palestinian news agency: The PLO completely rejects the Israeli maneuver aimed at obstructing the work of the UN Security Council and at preventing discussions of the report of Secretary General Butrus-Ghali by means of the proposal announced by Israel yesterday to take back one-third of the deportees and reduce the deportation period for the remaining brothers.

The PLO affirms that this proposal is aimed at dodging the implementation of Security Council Resolution 799 and at aborting the large-scale international media campaign, which calls for the full and immediate implemenation of this resolution. The PLO stresses that it is continuing consultations with the Arab group and non-aligned countries to call on the Security Council to convene immediately and take measures and sanctions against Israel in implementation of the provisions of Chapter 7 of the UN Charter.

The PLO emphasizes the need for caution and vigilance toward any attempts to weaken the unity of the Arab and international position toward the mass deportation, which constitutes a basic obstacle to the peace process and the resumption of negotiations.

'Ashrawi: Israel Extricating Itself From Dilemma

NC0102215793 London MBC Television in Arabic 2100 GMT 1 Feb 93

[Telephone interview with Dr. Hanan 'Ashrawi, spokeswoman for the Palestinian delegation to the Arab-Israeli talks, "immediately" following the announcement of the Israeli decision to allow the return of 100 Palestinian deportees, by MBC anchorman Nidal Qabalan—recorded]

[Text] ['Ashrawi] First of all this decision tries to circumvent international legality and UN Security Council Resolution 799. We are not speaking of adorning the deportation or making it a piecemeal deportation. This is an attempt to avoid confronting the core issue, namely the illegality of the expulsion and deportation decision. Israel and the United States must implement UN Security Council Resolution 799, which represents international legality and the rule of law in the region.

[Qabalan] Dr. 'Ashrawi, in the beginning the Israelis said they had deported nine persons by mistake and later they said they would allow 11 to return—and now 100. What exactly are the Israelis trying to do?

['Ashrawi] They are trying to extricate themselves and the United States from a predicament of their own making. They put themselves in that predicament and are now trying to circumvent international legality to avoid a confrontation with the world and to extricate the United States from its dilemma. The United States does not want to use its veto power to prevent the implementation of UN Security Council resolutions. It also cannot vote against a resolution it formerly supported.

[Qabalan] Dr. 'Ashrawi, the world community will meet tomorrow in the form of the Security Council to make a decision on the deportees issue. What do you expect will happen?

['Ashrawi] We expect and hope that the world community will remain faithful to its own resolutions and impartiality and either implement Resolution 799 or adopt punitive measures against Israel as a state that refuses to comply with the world community's decisions. This is why we expect the Security Council to convene on the basis of [the UN Charter's] Chapter 7 and that economic sanctions will be adopted against Israel if it persists in its intransigence, rejection of the resolution, and its attempts to prevent its implementation.

[Qabalan] This is the last question, Dr. 'Ashrawi. Where do the Arab-Israeli peace negotiations stand following the Israelis' decision to allow 100 deportees to return?

['Ashrawi] The peace negotiations still face a deadlock because there can never be harmony between the peace process and Israel's practices in the occupied territories, which defy international law and legality. The negotiations were founded basically on UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338. What guarantee is there that Israel will implement these two resolutions in line with the political process or international legality in the region at a time when it persists in defying all UN Security Council resolutions and other UN resolutions, particularly the recent resolution about the deportees?

Abu-Sharif Calls Israeli Offer 'Insufficient'

LD0202091393 Paris France-Inter Radio Network in French 0700 GMT 2 Feb 93

[Text] Palestinians turned down Israel's proposal to allow some 100 of the 415 deported Palestinians to return. Yasir 'Arafat's spokesman, Bassam Abu-Sharif, refers only to the recent UN decisions:

[Begin Abu-Sharif recording] The Israeli decision is insufficient. The UN Security Council unanimously decided that Palestinians, all Palestinians, should have the right to return home. The expulsion, the deportation of the 415 Palestinians, is a crime. [end recording]

Compromise Said Not Enough To Return to Talks

TA0202092993 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 2 Feb 93 pp 1, 2

[Pool report]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] Faysal al-Husayni believes that the compromise deal between Israel and the United States regarding the reduction of the Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] activists' deportation period does not suffice as a solution for the Palestinians and has not given them a wide-enough opening to return to the peace process negotiating table. Speaking to DAVAR soon after the main points of the decision by Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin were made public, al-Husayni said that, even before hearing deportees' view, the Palestinians will find it hard to accept anything less than the implementation of UN Resolution 799, which means the immediate return of all the deportees.

"We have no tanks or military forces. Our strength lies with international legitimacy and the UN resolutions. The ground for convening the Madrid conference was laid by earlier UN Security Council resolutions—242 and 338. If Israel is not ready to implement this latest resolution to the letter, who can vouch that it will be willing to fully implement the Council resolutions that serve as the basis for the peace process?" al-Husayni said.

According to him, the impression among the Palestinian public is that Israel is not serious about its peace intentions and, under such circumstances, the Palestinian delegation will find it hard to return to the negotiating table. "In carrying out the deportations, Israel made an illegal move.

Now it wants to cancel half of this illegal move while leaving the other half unchanged. If the rules of the game are taken from wrestling or boxing, where the strong party defeats the weak, we will have to take this into consideration," al-Husayni said, "but as far as I am concerned, political negotiations are a chess game of gradual progress under fair conditions." [passage omitted]

[A pool report on page A1 of Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew on 2 February carries additional reactions by Palestinian notables: "Sa'ib 'Urayqat, a member of the Palestinian delegation to the peace talks said: 'The issue is not how to solve Yitzhaq Rabin's problems, but how to solve the deportees' problem.'

["Attorney 'Ali al-Ghazlan, chairman of the West Bank Bar Association, said he believes that the compromise deal will not be accepted by the Palestinians, including the PLO. 'This is a matter of principle, and the Israeli Government must realize that and take the courageous step of returning all of the deportees in accordance with UN Resolution 799,' he said.

["Attorney Furayh Abu-Middyan, Gaza Bar Association chairman and member of the Palestinian peace talks delegation, said that the Palestinians, including the PLO, will not accept the Israeli offer. According to him, 'the Palestinian public will see the bottom line of the offer, which reads: 300 Palestinians will remain deported'."]

EC Lobbied To Pressure Israel on Deportations

PM0102121593 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 29 Jan 93 p 3

[Interview with Faysal al-Husayni, chairman of the Advisory Committee for the Palestinian delegation to the peace talks, by 'Abd-al-Hamid al-Yahyawi in Brussels; date not given]

[Text] Brussels—[Al-Yahyawi] What are your most important aims during this European tour?

[Al-Husayni] I came here to ask the Europeans to take a decisive position toward Israel if it refuses to implement Security Council Resolution 799, because its refusal would indeed lead to the destruction of the peace process, which we have been trying to push forward since its launch in Madrid.

[Al-Yahyawi] In your view, is the European Parliament capable of exerting pressure on Israel, especially in the light of its recent resolution on Israel and especially as Europe did not sense the priority of implementing the resolutions on international law before the Israeli High Court's decisions?

[Al-Husayni] I believe that the European Parliament can do a great deal. Because we know that when the EC and the EC member states threatened that they would not sign new agreements with Israel, Israel quickly did what the EC had requested of it. We believe that real, serious European pressure in this regard would compel Israel to change its position.

[Al-Yahyawi] What did you ask the Europeans to tell the Israelis during the next joint European-Israeli ministerial council meeting in Brussels 1 and 2 February?

[Al-Husayni] We mainly pointed out to the Europeans that the entire peace process now depends on the possibility of Israel's backtracking on that decision and on knowing whether Israel wants peace in the region or is seeking to continue the state of instability, concern, and war and to turn the region into a jungle instead of bringing about a comprehensive peace, as the international community wants.

[Al-Yahyawi] In your remarks before the European Parliament you said that the Palestinians' deportation was not only a violation of international law, but a stab in the back for the peace process in the Middle East. What do you mean?

[Al-Husayni] We mean that the peace process as a whole was based on UN credibility and the credibility of international legitimacy. The Israeli measure contravenes international legitimacy and thus demolishes the foundations on which the peace process in the Middle East was built, hence the view that the measure is a stab in the back for the peace process.

Russia Promises 'More Effective' Talks Role

PM0202094593 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 30 Jan 93 p 6

[Muhammad 'Ali al-Qulaybi report: "After Knesset Decision To Lift Ban, Palestinian Official Urges Israel To Take Practical Steps To Recognize PLO"]

[Text] Tunis—A PLO official has urged Israel to take practical and tangible steps to recognize the PLO officially, and to enter official, declared, and legitimate negotiations with it in a binding international framework on the basis of the resolutions of international legitimacy.

Jamil Hilal, director of the PLO Information Department, emphasized to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that without these steps no Israeli-Palestinian meetings will be useful and could be a waste of time.

He added that the Israeli decision to lift the ban on contacts with the PLO is meaningless and futile unless it is followed by tangible steps, first and foremost the Palestinian deportees' return to their homes, recognition of the PLO as the Palestinian people's sole legitimate representative, and adherence to the foundations of the peace process, which is based on implementation of Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338.

Hilal emphasized: "It is a problem just to deal with a decision to lift the ban on the PLO by holding meetings with PLO figures on the sidelines of international seminars and conferences; because this is a waste of time and will not help develop the peace process and advance it toward a just and comprehensive solution based on Israeli withdrawal from the occupied Palestinian lands, including Jerusalem, and the establishment of a Palestinian state."

Regarding the possibility of an imminent meeting in Cairo between Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin and Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat, Hilal said: "Although Rabin turned down 'Arafat's offer, the offer still stands and will continue to stand as long as Rabin is willing to hold a meeting with 'Arafat in his legitimate capacity."

At another level, Hilal announced the existence of arrangements to send a Palestinian delegation to Washington to meet with the new Administration. The Palestinian delegation will raise several issues, most notably the deportees issue, the resumption of the U.S.-PLO dialogue, and the question of forcing Israel to adhere to the foundations of the peace process.

AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT sources have said that Viktor Posuvalyuk, director of the Middle East and Africa Department at the Russian Foreign Ministry and the envoy sent to the Palestinian leadership, emphasized during his meetings with Palestinian officials in Tunis, first and foremost Abu-Mazin (Mahmud 'Abbas), that Russia strongly supports the Palestinian deportees' return to their homes on the basis of Security Council Resolution 799. He also added that his country would convene the Security Council to impose sanctions against Israel if it failed to implement the resolution in question. The Russian diplomat admitted that the deportees issue had had a direct effect on the negotiation process and that Israel was responsible for that.

Palestinian sources which attended the Russian diplomat's meetings have revealed that Yusufaluk conveyed to Palestinian officials promises that Russia would play a more effective role in the next rounds of bilateral and multilateral negotiations.

UN Pressure on Israel To Return Deportees Urged

PM0102140193 London AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI in Arabic 29 Jan 93 p 11

[Editorial: "The False Israeli Legitimacy"]

[Text] The Israeli High Court disappointed many people in the Arab homeland and abroad when it supported the government's decision to deport 415 Palestinians to southern Lebanon and rejected the appeal made by a group of human rights organizations which maintained that the decision was illegal.

Many had imagined that the court's verdict would be a face-saver for Rabin's government and its allies in the West, particularly in the wake of UN Secretary General Butrus-Ghali's recommendation of sanctions against the Hebrew state for failing to implement Security Council Resolution 799 calling for the repatriation of the deportees, but the result came contrary to all expectations.

The Palestinians and their leadership therefore have no option but to take the issue back to the UN Security Council and, on the basis of Dr. Butrus-Ghali's report, request a timetable for the implementation of the resolution and economic sanctions if the Rabin government does not comply with the UN resolutions.

The Security Council, which has been so meticulous in its implementation of its resolutions against Iraq, even though some were misinterpreted and open to question, will certainly be as meticulous regarding Israel, otherwise it will prove to the whole world that it is a Washington council not a UN council and that it only implements resolutions against the Arabs and Muslims while placing Israel above international law. The Israeli court decision exposes not only the Hebrew state's fake democracy but also all its institutions, including its judiciary, which is supposed to be immune to political whims.

How can previous decisions by that and other courts regarding the execution of innocent people on the pretext of Nazi affiliation or participation in the execution of Jews in Germany be accepted? How can the Arab citizens of Israel or inhabitants of the occupied territories possibly trust such courts or feel reassured about their verdicts? It is difficult for the human mind to envisage a higher or lower court that would approve the deportation of people without any charge being made against them and without their standing trial. Even in the revolutionary courts of dictatorial regimes there are trials, judges, and lawyers, regardless of the verdicts ultimately issued by such courts or the horrible ways they are implemented.

To the Palestinians, deportation is a worse punishment than execution. The deportation of people from their land by a civilized or uncivilized state on the grounds of unproven political charges after indiscriminate arrest is unprecedented.

We knew beforehand that Israeli legitimacy was racist and unfair, lacking all ethical values when dealing with an Arab, but the problem is that there are some people in the West, and in the East, who still sing the praises of Israeli democracy and judicial institutions.

New U.S. President Bill Clinton, who has frequently declared that human rights and democratic values top his list of priorities, needs no more proof of Israel's disregard for human rights and UN resolutions.

It is time to end Israel's flouting of UN and Security Council resolutions. If this current opportunity is not sufficient for doing so, then any future talk of international legitimacy and its application against Iraq or anyone else will be utter nonsense.

Hamas Official Clarifies Statement About Talks

JN0102112693 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 1 Feb 93 p 25

[Text] AL-DUSTUR has received a faxed clarification from Hamas representative Muhammad Nazzal on statements attributed to him by REUTER. He pointed out that some of the attributed statements were inaccurate.

The clarification reads: REUTER has cited me as saying that the PLO's withdrawal from the peace talks is not a precondition for Hamas to join the PLO. What I actually said was in reply to a question by a REUTER correspondent on Hamas' stand in case Palestinian general elections are held and the majority agrees on participation in the negotiations. I said that Hamas will respect the opinion of the Palestinian majority if free elections are held. Hamas had already explained its stand during its meeting with the Palestinian leadership in Tunis and Khartoum. It said the PLO delegation should withdraw [from the negotiations] before Hamas can join the PLO.

Regarding REUTER's report that Hamas demanded 40 percent of the Palestine National Council [PNC] seats, Nazzal said: I told REUTER that Hamas insists on the principle of general elections for the PNC. General elections are the real test of the Palestinian people's choice and will. I also pointed out that the matter is not that of percentages.

Paper Interviews PLO Representative in Paris

TA2901140493 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ (HA'ARETZ supplement) in Hebrew 29 Jan 93 pp 18, 21, 22

[Interview with Ibrahim al-Sus, PLO representative in France, by Gid'on Levi; in al-Sus' home in Paris "earlier this week"]

[Text] [Levi] Where did you disappear?

[Al-Sus] I did not leave Paris. There was a lot of speculation about my personal safety and when I told the French security authorities that I had received threats against myself and my family, they took it seriously and adopted all possible measures. France is the place where I feel safest. You should not forget that I am an accredited diplomat here and that it is a safe haven for me.

[Levi] Who is threatening you?

[Al-Sus] You know very well that they never identify themselves. Some people followed us in a car and there were dozens of anonymous phone calls, even though I have an unlisted phone number known only to a handful of people. Good friends of mine warned me that I am a target.

[Levi] You can probably guess who they are.

[Al-Sus] I would rather not engage in speculations.

[Levi] What do the threateners say?

[Al-Sus] They say nothing. They wait and then hang up. They call every five minutes, 20 to 30 times a day. It is upsetting. We have also had reliable information from here and from Tunis that we should be careful.

[Levi] Do you mean yourself or your wife Dina [sister of Yasir 'Arafat's wife]?

[Al-Sus] I have no idea. I think both of us.

[Levi] Why Dina?

[Al-Sus] I could not tell. I feel this is something concerning the entire family.

[Levi] Are you afraid?

[Al-Sus] If I told you I was not afraid I would be lying. Only fools are not afraid. I am not in a panic, but fear can be destructive.

[Levi] To the point of changing your views?

[Al-Sus] No. I have lived with threats for the past 25 years, and I have always kept my cool. Many of my friends were murdered only because they had a dialogue with the Israelis. In the 1970's, my good friend Sa'd Hamami told me that meetings with Israelis were the road to the future. He knew and I know that this is dangerous.

[Levi] Do you also suspect the Israeli authorities?

[Al-Sus] I do not feel that. I do not see why Israel should want to kill me. They killed some of my colleagues, in Rome and elsewhere, but I do not see any reason why the Israelis should want to kill me. After all, we are in the midst of a peace process. Never mind that at the same time Israel is killing our children, which contradicts the peace process. You cannot kill children and have a peace process. What I want to say to the Israeli authorities is: Stop the killing, remove the Army from populated areas, deploy a well-equipped police force in its place to keep the order, and respect the Geneva Convention. You cannot both conduct negotiations and kill.

[Levi] But the killings are on both sides.

[Al-Sus] I am sorry about every victim. You know my views: Every victim is a tragedy, but for every Israeli who gets killed 100 Palestinians are killed. This is a very macabre calculation, but it is real. We are not talking on an equal footing: You are our occupiers, and we are opposed to the occupation. If we make peace, our responsibility will be equal. Then, if an Israeli is killed we will be fully responsible.

[Levi] Has the Rabin government changed the situation?

[Al-Sus] I am one of those who had vast expectations when the left won the elections in Israel. I perceived Labor's victory as a triumph of the forces of peace in Israel. Rabin's first steps were quite promising. We thought they would continue, but then the killings resumed. I expected Rabin to make a daring and spectacular move, such as pulling out the Army from the cities. I thought he would say: We want peace, let us allow the Palestinians to run their own lives even if they stage demonstrations. After all, they throw stones at soldiers because they are there. If the Army had not been there, there would be nobody to throw stones at. Why should you not make a unilateral move and implement the Alon Plan? Deploy the Army on the mountain slopes to ensure Israel's security, but for God's sake, get out of our day-to-day lives.

This daring move did not come. Rabin started out all right, but then he let us down. Would you have believed then that he would deport 415 Palestinians?

[Levi] He deported the exact same people who are now threatening you.

[Al-Sus] We are unanimous in our opposition to the occupation and to the deportations. The time to make peace is limited, and extremists on both sides should not be allowed to grow stronger.

[Levi] Rabin says the deportees are the assassins of peace.

[Al-Sus] Assuming he is right, do you put them on the top of a deserted mountain in Lebanon and turn them into martyrs? By deporting them he has turned them into symbols. Then again, there are Israelis who object to the peace process. Will he also deport them?

[Levi] How many Israelis did you meet during the ban on meetings with the PLO?

[Al-Sus] I have not counted them, but there were many. Many Israelis phoned and others visited. I always believed that what is known in your country as "Peace Now" was a homogeneous and consistent group with a clear vision and opinions. They are brave people, but apparently not enough. I always told them: You should be a physical partition between the Army and the population of the territories. Go there and block the Army with your bodies. If you learn that a house is about to be demolished, go there and sit with the family, and we will see the Army tearing down the house then. True, they are brave, but in a calculated manner. Some of them are particularly brave, like my friend Abie Nathan who went to jail.

[Levi] Where are the Palestinians who will stop the killings with their bodies on the other side?

[Al-Sus] I am telling you once again that we are not on the same footing. You cannot expect a Palestinian to physically stand between the settlers and Palestinian youngsters who want the occupation to end. You are the occupiers and we are the occupied, and there is no balance between the two.

[Levi] So, how many Israelis did you meet during the ban?

[Al-Sus] Dina is here with me. Let me look into her eyes and see how many she remembers. I would say around 40 to 50.

[Levi] Right-wing members as well?

[Al-Sus] No, not right-wing members. The right wing sent a few feelers, but these never culminated in a meeting. There was some response, but it did not go all the way. I am talking about a very specific group within the Israeli right wing, and I am being extra careful with my choice of words.

[Levi] Who do you mean?

[Al-Sus] I am particularly talking about David Levi's camp in the Likud, not about members of the Shamir-Sharon camp.

[Levi] Could you be more specific?

[Al-Sus] They never showed up. I am talking about Sephardic members of the David Levi camp.

[Levi] So, would you like to see Levi at the head of the Likud after the primaries?

[Al-Sus] We consider you a sovereign state. We do not want to interfere in your domestic affairs, just as we expect you not to meddle in ours.

[Levi] You have recently become a new kind of celebrity. You are now 'Arafat's brother-in-law.

[Al-Sus] I am proud to be his brother-in-law. The whole family is proud of Suha, for having been chosen by 'Arafat to be his wife. This marriage is also important as a symbol, since it shows that we do not discriminate between Christians and Muslims. I am also proud of Suha for being so active in education, social, and human rights issues. She has set up a fund in France to help Palestinian children. She is a brave woman who understands her role as the wife of our president.

[Levi] Has your life changed since you became 'Arafat's brother-in-law?

[Al-Sus] No. Why?

[Levi] Maybe you are more prominent now.

[Al-Sus] I hope my prominence in the PLO is judged by my success as an ambassador and not by the fact that I am 'Arafat's brother-in-law. Also, I do not think he thinks I am now more important.

[Levi] How do you address him now?

[Al-Sus] I still call him Abu-'Ammar. Nothing has changed: He is the president and I am an ambassador.

[Levi] AL-QABAS recently reported that you had an argument over money, and that he accuses you of stealing $300,000.

[Al-Sus] Some scandalous newspapers have been attacking us ever since 'Arafat married Suha. I prefer to ignore such tricks. There is an Arab saying that if you throw a stone at a barking dog it will turn into a diamond. I am only sorry that HA'ARETZ also published that report.

[Levi] Why did 'Arafat keep the news of his marriage secret for so many months?

[Al-Sus] They did not keep it secret. They simply wanted to announce it at the appropriate national occasion.

[Levi] Ultimately it was reported by an Israeli paper.

[Al-Sus] I have always claimed that Israeli journalists are excellent.

[Levi] Perhaps your life is now in greater danger because of your new pedigree.

[Al-Sus] Yes, maybe.

[Levi] What can Israelis learn from the fact that Palestinian extremists want to kill you?

[Al-Sus] We are engaged in a peace process that is not to everybody's liking. There are opponents on both sides, and that is why we must hurry up. That is why I call on the Rabin government: Come out with a big initiative, it is within your power to do that. We cannot do more than what we have done. We should not allow the extremists to gain strength.

[Levi] But that is exactly what the Israelis fear: That we will be making peace with moderates who would soon be assassinated.

[Al-Sus] By the same token, I can tell you that if Rabin does not hurry up the Likud will return to power, and I do not think peace can be made with a man like Mr. Netanyahu. If we do not hurry up, the forces opposed to peace in Israel will also become more powerful. Fear exists on both sides. I understand your anxieties, but you must realize that we are also afraid. We are a small nation and you are a small nation, but you have a big army. We should not run our lives based on fear. I can only tell you that the forces opposed to peace in Israel are larger than in our midst. You have 150,000 settlers who are all opposed to the peace process. That is a cause for great anxiety in our midst about what is to come. Shamir's legacy is catastrophic.

[Levi] Still, Israeli moderates are not being threatened.

[Al-Sus] You are right. You are an established society. You have a state, while we live in the diaspora. We do not have a territorial basis. The PLO has a moral authority over the Palestinians, but what we have been doing to strengthen our brethren is considered a miracle in modern history. Imagine that a Palestinian is caught committing a crime in France. Can I ask for his extradition? We have no territory, no prison, and no police. Therefore, you should not compare that which cannot be compared.

Algeria

Iraq's Ramadan Arrives in Algiers, Comments

JN0202085193 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 2100 GMT 1 Feb 93

[Text] Taha Yasin Ramadan, vice president and Revolution Command Council member—personal envoy of His Excellency Leader President Saddam Husayn to his brother Mr. Ali Kafi, chairman of the Higher State Council in Algeria—arrived in Algiers today. He is carrying a letter from President Saddam Husayn to Algerian President 'Ali Kafi dealing with relations between the two brotherly countries and Arab and international developments and the need to reinforce the Arab position vis-a-vis challenges to the Arab nation.

In an arrival statement, Taha Yasin Ramadan said his visit aims at boosting dialogue and consultations between Iraq and Algeria and exploring ways to reinforce brotherly ties between the two brotherly states in the interest of the Arab nation and its aspirations.

The INA correspondent in Algeria quoted Taha Yasin Ramadan as saying that he deeply appreciates the Algerian people's support for their brothers in Iraq. Such a stand, added Ramadan, came as no surprise to the Iraqis, since it was a natural reaction in keeping with the pan-Arab identity of our brothers in Algeria.

Before his departure for Algeria, Ramadan said that, under President Saddam Husayn's instructions, Iraq always initiates meetings with Arab leaders and officials dedicated to their nation's causes with the aim of arresting the decline in the Arab fortunes brought on by certain conspiratorial and treasonous Arab rulers becoming tools manipulated by American-Zionist-Atlantic polices to the detriment of the Arab nation with an eye to reintroducing colonialism and controlling Arab resources and future Arab generations.

On hand to welcome Taha Yasin Ramadan upon his arrival in Algiers were Mr. (Rida Malek), member of the Higher State Council, a number of top Algerian officials, and the Iraqi ambassador in Algeria.

Security Arrests Gang in Jijel Province

LD3101210493 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 31 Jan 93

[Excerpt] The security services in Jijel province have arrested a gang of six persons. They also found in their possession weapons, large quantities of alcoholic drinks, large sums of money in hard currency, and 500,000 Algerian dinars, all of which were confiscated.

The gang comprises six individuals, two of whom are fugitives. They were headed by the so-called Doudah. The gang was under constant surveillance because it was known throughout the province to have been involved in suspicious activities, all of which are outlawed. In the last few days information was received that one of the men was in possession of firearms, one of which had been used to threaten a local citizen. There was also a large quantity of alcoholic drinks in his house which he had been selling without a licence.

After a search warrant was obtained from al-Tahir Court, the house of the man in question was searched. The following items were found: six automatic pistols, knives and daggers, ammunition, military uniforms, about 10,000 bottles of wine, quantities of spare part for cars and trucks and electronic and domestic equipment, about 500,000 dinars in cash, and a sum in hard currency. [passage omitted]

Sonatrach, British Petroleum Sign Agreement

LD3001214593 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 30 Jan 93

[Text] Sonatrach's desire to widen its international cooperation in the field of the discovery and exploitation of hydrocarbons is embodied in a $45-million agreement signed with British Petroleum today at the el-Mithak residence. The agreement is the first of its kind in implementing the cooperation agreement signed by the two companies in July 1992. The signing took place in the presence of the British ambassador to Algeria. Said Brahimi reports:

[Brahimi] The agreement was signed for Algeria by Sonatrach Managing Director Abdelhak Bouhafs, and by Mr. Brown, chairman of British Petroleum Exploration, in the presence of the British ambassador to Algeria. The agreement is a production-sharing agreement for nine years valued at $45 million.

The exploration area is in the Tell Atlas near Sour El Ghozlane. Work will be in three stages, including a 600-km land survey and five prospecting operations for exploitation. In the event gas is discovered, according to the agreement, the two companies will set up a company to jointly develop, exploit, and market the gas on the international market.

Finance Law Lets Foreign Banks Begin Operation

LD3101213193 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 31 Jan 93

[Text] From now on, according to the Finance Law, it will be possible for any foreign bank to open a branch in Algeria. Algerian and foreign businessmen will also now be able to establish banks or financial institutions, provided they have capital of 500 million Algerian dinars for a bank, and 100 million Algerian dinars for a financial institution. Here is Hassan Bin Ouada:

[Bin Ouada] Currently, 45 percent of liquidity in Algeria is being used outside the financial market and its return, therefore, is limited. The rest is spread between five types of banks on a national level. This figure can in future be increased after the field has now been opened for setting up banks and private financial institutions.

The legislative beginnings of this subject go back to 1990 when the Credit and Currency Law was passed. Having ascertained financial capability—that is, the capital of private financial institutions—and the criteria and conditions that must be fulfilled, together with security provisions, we now have the necessary conditions for setting up a bank or a financial institution. These are contained in the 1993 Finance Law. So, what are these conditions ?

[Unidentified speaker] The first thing that must be submitted is a business plan. From the business plan we can find out what the proposed bank is intending to do and what sector it is going to work in. With this business plan we also require evidence of the technical and financial means available to implement the business plan. The third thing we require, which is quite essential, are rules and criteria relating to the quality and integrity of the founders of the bank or the financial institution. This is a vital matter. We would like the founders of the bank to be people who have no problems with the law or have not been bankrupted in other areas of business.

The fourth requirement is a list of names of the management team of the bank. Why do we ask for this list? It is in order to ascertain the qualifications of the managers and whether they are able to implement their program successfully and to ensure that customers would be dealing with people who are competent.

Another thing we would also like to know is the internal structure of the bank or the financial institution.

[Bin Ouada] Once all these criteria have been fulfilled, the file will be submitted to the Bank of Algeria which will study it carefully. It will then be submitted to the Credit and Currency Board for their information. From there the licence to establish the bank or the financial institution, or to set up a branch of a foreign financial institution, will be granted.

The bank or the financial institution will not be allowed to begin work until after it has been approved by the Bank of Algeria and the necessary conditions have been created for the commencement of its work.

Government Council Discusses Role of Press

LD0202095893 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 0600 GMT 2 Feb 93

[Text] The Government Council met yesterday under the chairmanship of Belaid Abdessalam, the head of government. Following a briefing by the minister of culture and communications on the press in the public sector, the Government Council examined all aspects of the sector and the problems facing it, particularly at the organizational and management levels. The government expressed its determination to protect and properly support the public sector, the task of which is to respond and to defend the national interest.

The government decided to establish a working group at the Ministry of Culture and Communications, in which, in addition to concerned bodies, representatives from the profession will also take part. The working group will have the task of formulating a plan that will create a credible public press, and also improve the services being provided by the current structures to bolster and support the national press.

The Government Council also confirmed a number of appointments.

Egypt

Rabin Again Phones Mubarak To Discuss Deportees

NC0102211693 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 2100 GMT 1 Feb 93

[Text] Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin telephoned President Husni Mubarak this evening. They discussed the issue of the Palestinian deportees. This was the second such contact in the past 48 hours in the context of President Mubarak's intensive contacts with the Israeli Government and the U.S. Administration in connection with the Palestinian deportees.

Musa: Only Solution To Let All Deportees Return

NC0202101493 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0920 GMT 2 Feb 93

[Text] Cairo, 2 Feb (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa commented today on Israel's decision to allow 100 Palestinian deportees to return, saying that he regards the measure as acknowledgement from the Israeli Government that the only solution to the situation is to allow all of them to return.

He added: I view this decision as a beginning for Israel's consideration and respect for the Geneva Convention, which forbids deportation. We hope that the rest of the deportees will return as soon as possible and that this policy and practice of deportation will stop forever, he continued, concluding: We are following up the Israeli Government's contacts to ensure the return of other deportees as soon as possible.

Israeli Court Ruling on Deportees Termed 'Fraud'

NC3101070693 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 0500 GMT 31 Jan 93

[Text] In its meeting last night under Chairman Mufid Shihab, the Consultative Council's Committee of Arab and Foreign Affairs and National Security said that the Israeli High Court of Justice ruling on the Palestinian deportees is a fraud [tahayul], that the deportation resolution contradicts the Geneva Convention, and that Security Council Resolution 799 strongly condemns what Israel did regarding the deportees.

The Committee saluted UN Secretary General Dr. Butrus-Ghali for asking the Security Council to take the resolutions that guarantee the return of the deportees to their homes.

Ruling on Deportees 'Stab in Back' of Peace Talks

NC0102143493 Cairo AL-AKHBAR in Arabic 29 Jan 93 p 16

["An Idea" column by Mustafa Amin]

[Text] News agencies have asked me my opinion on the Israeli High Court of Justice ruling rejecting the return of the Palestinian deportees to their country. I said this was not the ruling of a court, but that of a gang.

It is a ruling not only directed against the Arabs, but against the Security Council. It is a death sentence on the Council.

What court agrees to deport 400 citizens from their country without investigation or trial? What court accepts that 400 leading figures of a country are deported without having committed any crime?

This is not the behavior of a country that wants peace in the Middle East. It is the behavior of a country that wants to destroy and inflame the region. It is not the behavior of those who negotiate peace, but of the enemies of peace and human rights.

The court ruling says the deportations will be temporary. What is temporary here? Is it a month, a year, or an eternity? How can these men tolerate the severe cold, freezing conditions, and hunger? It is a ruling to execute them en masse. These heroes will be unable to tolerate more than they have already. If this is the ruling of a high court, I dare not ask what the ruling of a low court will be.

This is a stance that the Arabs, the Security Council, and human rights will not accept. It evidences Israel's bestiality in dealing with the people who own the land it occupies unjustly and forcefully. This clearly violates the Geneva Convention.

Many countries occupied other countries before Israel occupied Palestine. But no occupying power treated the residents of its colonies the way Israel does.

It is a new stab in the back of the peace talks.

Deportees Issue Called 'Real Test' for Clinton

NC3001114393 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 28 Jan 93 p 9

[Mursi 'Atallah column: "Issues and Views"]

[Text] Contrary to new U.S. President Bill Clinton's expectations for a presidential honeymoon free from acute international crises so that he could start implementing his campaign promises, Israel created a crisis by deporting hundreds of Palestinians and the personal hostility between Bush and Saddam escalated into a military confrontation. Clinton found himself confronted by a reality he had not even dreamed of on his inauguration day.

These surprising developments force us to ask several questions, the most important of which is: How will Clinton deal with Israel's flagrant violation of international law after clearly stating that he would continue Bush's firm policy toward Iraq's violation of international law?

It is puzzling that although the Iraqi regime is responsible for giving the United States a justification for escalating the military situation, the Iraqi regime is now giving the impression that it wants to reconcile with the United States, comply with the UN resolutions, and cooperate with its agencies. On the other hand, Israel continues to defy everyone on the issue of the Palestinian deprtees, which is an even more flagrant violation of human rights and international law.

It is ironic that Israel has asked the Security Council to postpone the discussion of the deportees issue until Israel's High Court issues its ruling, despite its refusal to cooperate with the UN envoy's mission and the clarity of its defiance of international law.

The Palestinian deportees' issue is the first real test of the Clinton administration. How the United States deals with this issue will determine the future of the peace process. It will determine whether the bilateral peace talks will resume at the same pace.

How Clinton deals with the peace process will determine for us the credibility of his administration. It will reveal whether promises to support the peace process are real or just campaign promises.

We call on the Clinton administration to prove to the entire international community that its interests in enforcing international legitimacy is not confined to Iraq. The real strength of international legitimacy is represented by enforcing international laws and resolutions by one standard, without discrimination.

The Arabs are not the only ones facing puzzling questions. Several international parties, including influential sides in the international alliance against Iraq, are also questioning the U.S. hesitation, if not failure, to curb Israeli violations of international legitimacy.

Israel's provocative attitude toward the UN envoy and continued disregard of Security Council Resolution 799 has generated a sort of Arab sympathy with the Iraqi regime during the recent crisis despite the Arabs' awareness of the Iraqi regime's excessiveness. The U.S. double standard is creating a growing anger among the Arabs and it is wrong to disregard such feelings.

What remains is a question about the U.S. role in the so-called new world order and Washington's attempts to steer the United Nations in crises involving international legitimacy.

The UN envoy has again failed to convince Israel to implement UN Security Council Resolution 799. Washington should have declared its support for any measures designed to enforce international law.

It would be a very grave situation if the United States vetoes Security Council sanctions on Israel. Nothing is more dangerous to regional stability than the Arab feeling that Israel alone is protected against punishment by the international community.

The United States should take this into consideration if it wants to maintain good relations with the Arabs. If this does not happen, then let's all read the first sura of the Koran and shed tears over the deceased soul of the new world order.

Columnist Rejects U.S. Call for 'Time to Think'

NC3101132393 Cairo AL-AKHBAR in Arabic 28 Jan 93 p 14

["A Thought" column by Mustafa Amin]

[Text] U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Edward Djerejian asked five Arab ambassadors not to embarrass President Clinton by requesting UN sanctions against Israel if it fails to comply with Resolution 799. Djerejian asked them to give the U.S. Administration some time to solve this problem.

This is a strange request from the United States. Not embarrassing President Clinton means embarrassing 20 Arab and 20 Islamic countries. When we ask for Israel to be punished, we embarrass Israel, not Clinton. We are only asking for Security Council resolutions to be implemented. If we agree to give President Clinton time to examine the problem, we destroy the power of the Security Council and its resolutions. A solution to this problem does not need time: Some 400 hundred Palestinians are living without shelter, dying of cold and frost. We are sacrificing 400 Arabs to give the U.S. President time to think.

Time is not the issue here; decisiveness is. The decision needs to respect the UN resolutions and show no double standards. Why should we punish Iraq for violating Security Council resolutions and fail to punish Israel? Why should we apply laws to one state but not another? If the United States does not wish to anger Israel, how can it avoid angering more than 40 Arab and Islamic countries?

We hope Clinton will not practice double standards. We hope all countries will be treated equally. We hope that there will be no discrimination in the world, no special privileges for Israel. The United States wants the Security Council to commit suicide by not enforcing its own resolutions, all in order to appease a state that openly defied the Security Council. This is an injustice that we cannot accept.

Columnist Says Deportees Issue Test for Clinton

NC0102183193 Cairo AL-AKHBAR in Arabic 29 Jan 93 p 2

["Comment" column by Nabil Zaki: "The Most Serious Test"]

[Text] The time has come for the world to impose its will on a state that, although it owes its very existence to the United Nations, has defied all international resolutions since its establishment.

Israel does not conceal its contempt for the United Nations and its organizations and for Security Council resolutions, embarrassing even those who have dedicated their country's military, political, diplomatic, and economic capabilities to supporting and aiding Israel.

It is now time to put the Security Council to the most serious test, and to try the standards and the credibility of the big ones who control the Council's resolutions. It is perhaps unfortunate for those big ones that the Israeli defiance came after their action against Iraq.

The question of the Palestinian deportees has now reached a serious turning point: It is either Israel or the whole world. The Security Council's debate in the next few days will definitively tell everybody whether terms like "international law," "global legitimacy," and "international will," used all the time by the big powers, mean anything. Alternatively, people will know if there is a state that is above the law and the UN Charter, that enjoys special protection for all kinds of occupation, invasion, expansion, bloody oppression, and violations of human rights.

It is high time we discover who the decisionmaker in the international arena is. Is it Israel or the United Nations? If the Israeli court's ruling challenges the Arabs and the world, it also puts new U.S. President Bill Clinton to the test. The road is open for him to launch the right start for genuine peace talks on the basis of a single, just, and fair standard. Clinton has the chance: More than half of Rabin's own cabinet is not happy with the deportation; many Israeli ministers are arguing that the decision was "a political mistake." Moreover, the Security Council's resolution condemning the deportation was unanimously adopted, and while the entire world wants the Washington-sponsored peace negotiations to succeed, Israel is now sabotaging the process.

Clinton thus has every good reason to take the right position; namely, not to oppose Security Council sanctions against a state that has never before implemented an international resolution. If it fails to implement them this time, do not expect anyone to observe resolutions. Then all your military power will not do.

Columnist Views Clinton Stand on Deportees

NC0102194493 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 30 Jan 93 p 8

["Closeup" column by Salamah Ahmad Salamah: "A Test for the Clinton Administration"]

[Text] In its first dealings with the Middle East issue, President Clinton's administration offered a clear model that reveals its stand on the peace process and its method in implementing its strategy toward the parties to the conflict. The new U.S. Administration found itself faced with a severe problem: the deportees issue. Israel deported them without leveling any specific accusations other than that they are Islamic extremists. Israel put them in a deserted hilly area and blocked relief aid and food supplies to them, violating the Geneva conventions, human rights, and all recognized international charters.

What has the new Clinton administration done? It said that it urged the Israeli Government to find a solution to this problem. It said that what is more important is that this issue should not adversely affect the prospective bilateral negotiations and that the Arab moves at the Security Council should not anger or upset Israel. It also maintained that Security Council Resolution 799, which condemned Israel and demanded that it return the deportees, is sufficient. It said that the Arabs should be patient and not embarrass President Clinton or demand that sanctions be imposed on Israel.

Instead of exerting serious efforts to persuade Israel to back down on its stand on the deportation of Palestinians to maintain U.S. credibility by adopting a fair and balanced stand on the parties to the conflict—given the numerous accusations that it is a priori biased toward Israel—and to maintain the momentum of the bilateral negotiations, President Clinton's administration preoccupied itself with taking measures to protect Israel from sanctions that might be passed by the Security Council. It hinted that it would use the veto if new draft resolutions imposing sanctions on Israel were proposed.

We should put on record here that UN Secretary General Dr. Butrus Butrus-Ghali, who has been criticized because of the double standards applied by the United Nations, took a decisive and unequivocal stand when he demanded that the Security Council impose sanctions on Israel after it rejected his envoy's endeavors to implement Resolution 799. The problem is that the U.S. domination of the United Nations is behind this double standard. Perhaps we Arabs are to blame for this because we hasten to comply with and implement Security Council resolutions when they apply to Iraq whereas we keep silent or wrangle when it comes to proposing a draft resolution calling for sanctions against Israel.

Obviously the ball is now in Clinton and Rabin's court. The question is whether the U.S.-Israeli plan will succeed in distinguishing between the deportees issue and the peace talks.

Al-Baz on Talks With UN, U.S. Officials

NC3101143393 Cairo Voice of the Arabs in Arabic 0610 GMT 31 Jan 93

[Telephone interview with Dr. Usamah al-Baz, first Foreign Ministry under secretary and director of the President's Office for Political Affairs, in Washington, by Ashraf 'Abd-al-'Aziz, in Cairo, carried on the "Dialogue From Afar" program; date not given—recorded]

[Text] ['Abd-al-'Aziz] We have Dr. Usamah al-Baz, first Foreign Ministry under secretary and director of the President's Office for Political Affairs on the phone. Dr. Usamah al-Baz, welcome to Voice of the Arabs.

[Al-Baz] Welcome to you.

['Abd-al-'Aziz] First, we would like to hear about your talks at the UN headquarters in New York and your meeting with UN Secretary General Dr. Butrus-Ghali.

[Al-Baz] I discussed numerous issues of interest to Egypt and the Arab world with Dr. Butrus-Ghali. We discussed the deportees, the persecution, torture, and horrors to which our Muslim brothers in Bosnia-Hercegovina are being subjected, as well as the situation in Somalia. The UN role in many of these problems is special and steadily expanding. In the past, the UN role was restricted to peacekeeping. Now, its role has expanded to peace making. It is only natural that Egypt has a stand on the UN role and wants to discuss these issues with the secretary general and representatives of the regional powers. This is what took place.

['Abd-al-'Aziz] We know that the deportee issue poses a danger to the peace process. You must have explained Egyptian views on this issue to the UN secretary general. What was Dr. Butrus-Ghali's reaction?

[Al-Baz] Dr. Butrus-Ghali knows our views very well and is eager to end this problem. The important thing, as we discussed, is that such events should not affect the peace process. The peace process is the strategic objective that we should all seek to realize. We do not want a situation where every time a problem crops up we have an obstacle in the way of the peace talks. It is not right for any side to claim that an obstacle is preventing us from continuing the peace process. We must continue the peace process. We could postpone a round of negotiations, but we must preserve the current momentum. Our final objective is peace. Peace is what will prevent such incidents in the future. Such incidents would not take place if peace were established. We are doing all this to stop escalation by one party or the other.

['Abd-al-'Aziz] You met with some members of the new U.S. Administration. What were the results of these meetings?

[Al-Baz] My objective was to hold contacts with the new U.S. Administration at an early stage. We know some of the personalities in this administration and we got to know some of the new ones. We were interested in promoting continued Egyptian-U.S. relations, which is in the interests of both sides. We use these relations to the benefit of all Arabs, not just bilateral Egyptian-U.S. affairs. We also wanted to ensure that the new U.S. Administration will pay enough attention to the Middle East situation and point out that the problems in the region and internal U.S. issues are interlinked. Each is affected by the other. We are also preparing for a visit President Mubarak will pay to the United States sometime soon. The date has not been fixed yet, but it will be in the next few days.

['Abd-al-'Aziz] There is an oft-repeated claim in the Third World that the United Nations deals with international issues forcefully in some cases and timidly in others. Did you sense a policy inside the United Nations to eliminate this charge?

[Al-Baz] Through my talks with Dr. Butrus-Ghali, some officials of the UN Secretariat, and some representatives of major countries, I felt they now know about the charges of a double standard. We do not know whether the charges are true or not, but the impression exists, and we should try to stop it. If it continues, it will threaten the world order. Some parties essential to the new equation believe that the new world order is not fair and does not protect their interests. This is being used to serve the interests of other parties. The most important point is that there should be awareness of these fears. We hope that now things will be dealt with with greater sensitivity.

It is ironic that a large number of Arabs are accusing the United Nations of applying double standards, while three days ago, Israeli Prime Minister Rabin made the same accusations to Dr. Butrus-Ghali. Rabin said the United Nations is using a double standard because it condemns and denounces the deportations but does not care about terrorist acts committed by these extremist Palestinian factions, which call for violence and hamper the peace process. This accusation is used by many sides, not just the Arabs.

['Abd-al-'Aziz] We would like to ask one last question before we conclude this dialogue. What is the extent of coordination between the Arab League, the international organizations, and the Arab countries, foremost of which is Egypt, with regard to the deportees, especially considering the Arab League secretary general's announcement that he will be visiting the deportees?

[Al-Baz] What has happened is undoubtedly good for two reasons. The first is that the whole Arab nation is concerned about the deportees, whether for political reasons or humanitarian ones. The other is that focused Arab action took place with the objective of a specific goal, which wasn't merely to degrade Israel. We have a definite goal we want to achieve. We are working to remove this obstacle from the way of the peace process. Everyone here praised the wisdom of the Arab foreign ministers when they clarified the need to end the tragedy of the deportees, while also stressing that peace should not be affected by such events and that we should continue negotiations to find a final solution to the problem.

['Abd-al-'Aziz] Thank you.

[Al-Baz] Thank you.

Musa on Refusal To Sign Chemical Weapons Pact

NC3001130093 Cairo AL-AKHBAR in Arabic 28 Jan 93 p 1

[Report by Majidah Tantawi in Geneva]

[Text] In an exclusive statement to AL-AKHBAR, Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa, who is in Geneva to address a conference on disarmament, has stressed that Egypt's position on the chemical weapons agreement has not changed. Egypt has refused to sign the agreement.

Musa said it is inconceivable to allow one state in the region to possess weapons of mass destruction, including a nuclear arsenal, and yet ask the other states to sign an agreement banning chemical weapons.

He said that Egypt's position on the issue comes from a desire for a political and security strategy in the Arab world.

Mubarak, al-Qadhdhafi Talk on Arab Issues

NC3001190193 Cairo ESC Television in Arabic 1800 GMT 30 Jan 93

[Text] Libyan revolution leader brother Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi telephoned President Muhammad Husni Mubarak tonight. The two leaders exchanged views on developments in a number of Arab and regional issues, in addition to a number of bilateral issues.

U.S. Called On To 'Prove Credibility'

NC3101131893 Cairo AL-AHRAM AL-MASA'I in Arabic 27 Jan 93 p 2

[Editorial: "Ghali's Recommendation and U.S. Credibility"]

[Text] Finally, UN Secretary General Dr. Butrus Butrus-Ghali has adopted a positive step—albeit a little late—on the issue of the Palestinians deportees, who have been living in difficult conditions in southern Lebanon since they were expelled by Israel about 40 days ago. Dr. Butrus-Ghali's move came after the recent crisis with Iraq was about to end; a crisis that left behind a wave of anger in Arab capitals against the aggression towards the Iraqi people on the pretext of UN resolutions. It came at a time when the United Nations ignored Israel's refusal to implement Resolution 799 calling for the return of the exiled Palestinians.

Butrus-Ghali must have sensed the anger, made clear by the numerous criticisms leveled at him and the United Nations by Arab parties, forcing him to submit his report to the Security Council yesterday [26 January]. He admits in his report that "there is a growing feeling in the world that the Security Council does not pay equal attention to the implementation of its resolutions."

Butrus-Ghali's move may be a little late, a weak attempt to show that something is being done, but even so it throws the ball in the U.S. court. The United States after all, has the right to veto Security Council resolutions.

Despite the Arab applause, which is natural, we must not forget that the UN secretary general only did his duty. His report should not have been delayed until now, especially because the lives of the exiled Palestinians are in danger from both the harsh weather conditions and Israel's provocative refusal to implement Resolution 799.

What is frightening is Israel's defense of the expulsion order. Israel keeps citing the danger posed by Muslim fundamentalists, as evident in statements by Rabin and Peres yesterday. This is exactly what the Serbs have said about Bosnia.

Washington is called on now, more than ever, to prove its credibility and commitment to international legitimacy. It must not try to block Security Council sanctions against Israel. Such a move would prove indisputably the double standard in U.S. policy. It would also confirm that the United Nations is merely a U.S. tool.

The Arabs and the international community have been patient about Israel's human right violations in the occupied territories. Atrocities have been going on for a long time without any move by those who claim to support "international legitimacy"—a term that has lost meaning from over-use.

It is time for the term to regain its meaning, time for it to be used in favor of the Palestinians and against Israel. It is time to show hope in a new world order based on respect for international laws that guarantee peoples' rights to self-determination. The Clinton administration must not miss this chance to dispel suspicions and end the accusations of a U.S. double standard.

Namibian Premier, Sidqi Hold News Conference

NC3101132793 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1147 GMT 31 Jan 93

[Text] Cairo, 31 Jan (MENA)—Egypt and Namibia today signed an agreement for scientific and cultural cooperation following the round of concluding talks at the Prime Ministry between delegations from the two countries. Prime Minister 'Atif Sidqi and Namibian Prime Minister Mr. Hage Geingob led the delegations.

The two prime ministers held a news conference after the final round of talks. At the beginning of the news conference, the Namibian prime minister expressed his joy over visiting Egypt and the progress made during the visit.

Dr. Sidqi said that the Namibian prime minister's visit to Egypt yielded positive results. He expressed his hope that future relations, especially in the fields of cultural, science, technology, trade, and economic cooperation would develop.

Dr. Sidqi discussed the deportees, saying that Egypt and Namibia agreed that Israel should implement Security Council Resolution 799 and allow the deportees to return to their homes immediately.

Prime Minister Sidqi added that neither the deportee problem nor other problems should hamper the negotiations process, which is being held to find a just and comprehensive peace in the Middle East.

Sidqi also commented on the border problems between African countries, saying that Egypt advocates solving these problems peacefully so that the African people can concentrate on social and economic growth.

In conclusion, Sidqi added that Egypt supported SWAPO [South West Africa People's Organization] until Namibia achieved independence in 1990. He added that Egypt was the first Arab country to open an embassy in Namibia. He said this confirms the strong bilateral relations in this new age.

The Namibian prime minister and his delegation are expected to leave Cairo tomorrow, Monday, after an eight-day visit to Egypt.

Joint Statement Issued

NC3101145193 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1239 GMT 31 Jan 93

[Text] Cairo, 31 Jan (MENA)—Egypt and Namibia have expressed their concern about Israel's deportation of the Palestinians and urged Israel to implement the UN Security Council resolution and return them to their homes immediately.

In a joint statement issued today at the conclusion of Namibian Prime Minister Hage Geingob's visit here, the two sides voiced their support for the Palestinian people's right to self-determination and said that the Middle East peace process should continue its search for a just and lasting solution to the Palestinian issue.

The two sides emphasized the need for political and economic cooperation among African countries and urged that more efforts be made to economically integrate and socially develop Africa.

Egypt and Namibia also denounced violence in southern Africa and urged that peace be restored in that part of the continent. The two countries also called for the establishment of a democratic and nonracist state in South Africa. They welcomed international efforts to find peace and security in Somalia and Mozambique.

Egypt and Namibia noted their excellent ties and called for them to be consolidated in all fields.

Namibian Prime Minister Departs

NC0102112993 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0725 GMT 1 Feb 93

[Excerpt] Cairo, 1 Feb (MENA)—Namibian Prime Minister Hage Geingob and his delegation departed Cairo this morning at the end of a five-day visit to Egypt.

He was seen off at the airport by Prime Minister Dr. 'Atif Sidqi and a number of ministers. [passage omitted]

Foreign Minister Musa Postpones African Sojourn

NC3101145993 Cairo AL-AHRAM PRESS AGENCY in Arabic 1047 GMT 31 Jan 93

[Text] Cairo, 31 Jan (AL-AHRAM PRESS AGENCY)—Following is the text of a press statement issued by the Egyptian Foreign Ministry today:

The Israeli High Court of Justice ruling has further complicated the issue of the Palestinian deportees and the peace process. All parties agree that this process is a great opportunity that should not be wasted in efforts to achieve Middle East security and stability. Due to the demands of these new circumstances, such as increased contacts with the parties involved on the level of the United Nations, Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa has decided to postpone the African tour on which he was expected to embark today.

The foreign ministers of Namibia, Zimbabwe, and Kenya have been informed of the reasons for this postponement. They were also informed of the foreign minister's desire to visit these three fraternal African countries as soon as possible within the framework of Egypt's moves in the African arena.

'Danger' of U.S. Actions in Iraq Viewed

NC0102201093 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 30 Jan 93 p 9

[Editorial: "A Turning Point"]

[Text] It is highly likely that the new U.S. Administration's provocations of Saddam Husayn's regime will recur in the form of intermittent aircraft bombing of certain Iraqi positions under the pretext that the latter threaten [tata'arrad] them during their daily overflights to monitor the no-fly zones in south and north Iraq. It is also highly likely that the U.S. provocations are intended to tell the whole world that the United States will militarily protect its interests without having to go through rigorous procedures or consult its allies. If our guess is right, this step would mean that the United States is flouting both the UN resolutions and the obligations to the Western alliance, particularly as this comes at a time when Iraq is emphasizing its compliance with the cease-fire it unilaterally declared without obtaining a quid pro quo from the United States or the West.

We may note that under such circumstances it is easy for the Iraqi actions and U.S. reactions, as the Clinton administration portrays them, to turn into a reverse process, with the United States becoming the party that initiates action and Iraq the side that reacts. In such a situation the skirmishes, if they continue, may gradually turn into deliberate provocative operations to motivate Iraq to react and thus become the target of a violent assault. In other words, the United States would claim that Iraq initiated the fight to continue to badger it. Such a situation would secure a continued armed U.S. presence in the region and continued mobilization in the gulf countries. The danger in such an escalation of the situation clearly lies in the gradual disintegration of the allied front and tacit recognition that the United States is the sole country handling the region. This situation would provide a veneer of legality to U.S. actions that would exceed the UN resolutions or even the unilateral agreements among the allies. We fear that this might be the way that the new U.S. Administration sees the new world order.

'Need To Oust' Saddam Said an 'Iraqi Demand'

NC0202100593 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1240 GMT 1 Feb 93

[Commentary by Mahmud Marzuq: "The Iraqi People and the Big Question"]

[Text] Iraqi Deputy Premier Tariq 'Aziq has reiterated his country's desire to open a new page in its relations with the United States. In addition, he called on the French Government to open a dialogue with Iraq and to turn a new leaf in Iraqi-French relations. France quickly rejected the request, saying that it would be impossible for relations to improve until the head of the Iraqi regime complies with all UN resolutions. The Iraqi regime has also been begging the Gulf states to open a dialogue with Iraq.

The Iraqi regime is forgetting the real reasons behind the current situation in the region, claiming that the entire matter is a mere dispute with the United States or France. With limited intelligence, it is trying to divest the main issue—namely, its invasion of Kuwait and its threat to the stability of the region and the world—and make it appear as merely a dispute between the Iraqi regime and the international coalition. The Iraqi regime is forgetting that the Clinton administration is acting according to UN resolutions, that the issue is not merely one of good or bad bilateral relations.

The Iraqi ploy is exposed. The Iraqi regime must comply with UN resolutions. Only after doing so can it talk about improving relations with the United States and the coalition states.

The nagging questions are: What does Saddam Husayn want? What are his aims? The answer is that the international community's opposition to his regime is proof that the Iraqi dictator's regime is living in a state of suffocation and is absorbed in staying in power and standing fast against the international measures aimed at curbing its ambitions.

For the second time in two years, the Iraqi dictator has exposed his country and people to allied strikes. This proves that he has not learned his lesson and that he still entertains dreams of expansion and hegemony, even if this causes his people, who have tasted humiliation since he seized power, to suffer even more. The Iraqi people have sacrificed their sons and resources for Saddam's adventures and destructive illusions.

The coalition's strikes against Iraqi missile positions in the no-fly zones in south and north Iraq have proved several facts, which everyone in this region and elsewhere must know and remember:

1. The Iraqi dictator, who is in a straitjacket and feels his end is near, is gambling with everything in Iraq—with the homeland and the people—for the sake of remaining in power at any cost and at the expense of the suffering Iraqi people.

2. The crises being fabricated by the Iraqi dictator aim to prove his existence. He has issued false claims of defiance to invite military retaliation with the hope of winning the Iraqi people's sympathy and support.

3. Current events in Iraq prove in no uncertain terms that the Baghdad regime has lost all prerequisites for existence and survival. All the regime's adventures are doomed to failure, as events have proved since its unsuccessful invasion of Kuwait and its shameful defeat and ousting from Kuwait.

The other question we ask today is: Where are the Iraqi people heading? This is a question frequently asked by Arab and international quarters. How long will the brothers in Iraq remain blindfolded and pushed to the abyss by the Iraqi dictator and his clique, which lusts for power? The need to oust Saddam has become a primarily Iraqi demand, as this is an internal affair affecting the interests of the Iraqi people, whose manpower and economic resources have been squandered by the dictator. The Iraqi dictator continues to pursue the same course, putting his fingers in his ears, ignoring the cries at home and the international community's rejection of him.

The call to oust the dictator is being reiterated in the Arab and Islamic worlds and by the entire international community. The Iraqi people's link with the Arab and Islamic worlds is organic and based on factors of religion, language, geography, and history. All these factors have made the pains and tragedies of the Iraqi people under the rule of the Iraq dictator the pains and concerns of the Islamic and Arab worlds. The Islamic and Arab nations have suffered losses in their resources, doctrines, and values no less important than the losses the Iraqi dictator has caused to the Iraqi nation.

The war against Iran squandered Arab resources and violated Islamic values. The Iraqi dictator caused the loss of over 1 million Muslim lives on both sides. The war against Kuwait was a stab in the back of supreme Islamic values, which uphold the right of good neighborliness and call for solidarity and detente. Therefore, the demand that this dictator be ousted remains urgent because he is the main reason for the suffering of the Iraqi people. The Iraqis alone have the best reasons to overthrow this dictator and his clique and rest Iraq and the world from his evil. This end will not be late in coming.

Need To Overthrow Iraqi Regime Stressed

NC0202111993 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1240 GMT 30 Jan 93

[Ahmad al-Qasir commentary: May God Help You O Iraqi People]

[Text] The world has never known a ruler who antagonized his people and worked to annihilate them by every means possible and destroy their economic, military, and human capabilities like the defeated tyrant who sits on the ruler's seat in Baghdad. He thinks he inherited Iraq and its people from his forefathers and acts as if Iraq is a homestead in which he can do what he wants. The best witness to what we say comes in his rash and irresponsible actions in the middle of January, actions for which the oppressed and hungry Iraqi people paid dear. We are talking here about Saddam Husayn's attempt to take heart to prove to himself and his people that he is alive and ruling Iraq.

He came out to threaten the world again and to talk about a new imaginary victory in the Mother of Battles to be added to his earlier imaginary victories. The reply came swiftly in a powerful blow that returned the head of the Iraqi regime to his senses. He immediately retreated and let the UN officials enter his country and destroy the weapons of mass destruction he keeps in accordance with the UN Security Council resolution.

He then declared a unilateral cease-fire, although he did not engage in a fight with anybody, simply because he cannot. He is indeed unable to protect himself against the Iraqi revolutionaries who pursue him daily to tear him apart. For over two weeks, he has begged the new U.S. Administration to pardon him and let him stay in power under any terms, no matter how harsh they might be. He does that and claims to turn over a new leaf with the United States of America.

What can be more humiliating than that which this defeated tyrant has brought on his people and the Arab nation? Can there be more discord in Arab ranks than that brought about by the Iraqi regime through its appalling crime against Kuwait? Can there be a more dangerous threat to collective pan-Arab security than that posed by Baghdad's ruler, who harmed the Arab nation and its pan-Arab issues and distorted its image?

After the Kuwaiti crisis and its subsequent negative effects on Iraq and other areas, Iraq's ruler should have come to his senses, learned his lesson well, and embarked quickly on implementing the UN Security Council resolutions against his regime so that he could save his homeland and people from destruction. Regrettably enough, he did the contrary. That tyrant started to put his hungry people inside his great prison to use them as a human shield to protect himself. He used them as a bargaining chip to put pressure on the world, hoping to escape unpunished. Again he resorted to deception and false slogans as if nothing happened, as if Iraq's children were not dying by the hundreds every day due to lack of food and medicine, as if he had never heard of that continuous popular uprising against him throughout the land of the two rivers, and as if he did not know that the sons of his people in the north and south had opted to live under UN troop protection for fear of his oppression and tyranny and refused to let these troops withdraw to avoid new massacres at the hands of Baghdad's ruler and his henchmen.

This dictator still acts as if he had not seen with his own eyes the free men of Iraq holding their conference in the north, adopting a decision to overthrow that tyrant and his terrorist regime, and appealing to free men to help them get rid of that hateful, oppressive regime.

What does such a ruler expect when he did not hesitate, even after his defeat, to keep up the campaign of killing and displacing the Iraqi people and launching a war of starvation and an economic embargo against the sons of Iraq? Why is he waiting to go out into that popular, Arab, and international rejection, his isolation, and the economic embargo? How can Saddam Husayn accept this, when he was the one who said he would not leave authority to anyone else until Iraq becomes a state without a people? What can he do to maintain his collapsing regime, on which the countdown has started?

Baghdad's ruler and his ill-advised henchmen—like Tariq Hanna 'Aziz, Taha Yasin Ramadan, and even his son Udayy, the ignorant boy he appointed as chief of the Iraqi Journalists Association through bribery and terrorism—accused the Arab partners who are concerned about the hungry and oppressed Iraqi people of inciting the world to overthrow the leader of the gang that rules Iraq. Those misled and misleading people forget that no one wants to deal with the ruler who betrayed the trust of his people and pan-Arabism and violated international legitimacy.

All that interests the international community, primarily the Arab nation, is to rescue the hungry and oppressed Iraqi people and save them from that dangerous quagmire to which they were dragged by the head of the Iraqi regime and its irrational conduct. Ending the nightmare bearing down on the chest of the people by oppression and terrorism has become an international demand. The best evidence of this came when Turkish President Turgut Ozal yesterday said that the ruling regime in Iraq should be eliminated to save the people and the people of the region and to establish security and stability in the Gulf. The world strongly backs the Iraqi people's continuous struggle to get rid of that terrorist regime. The international community will not go back on this stance. We can only say: May God help you O Iraqi people in your holy jihad for liberty and salvation.

U.S. Warned To Take Measured Steps Against Iraq

NC3001084793 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 28 Jan 93 p 9

[Editorial: "The Dangers of Escalation"]

[Text] It appears that the new Clinton administration is intent on chasing the Saddam regime until it brings it down. Washington seems to have run out of patience with this regime's reckless adventures. This was made clear by the new secretary of defense, who hinted that Saddam might have to go so that his successor can comply, as he should, with the UN resolutions.

The U.S. intention to remove Saddam is presented in a well-mannered way; that is, the United States is merely waiting for him to step down. This act is supposed to be a voluntary step or the result of purely domestic pressures. These pressures, of course, cannot come from a vacuum and must start from outside the country so that the interior can become affected. Pursuing the same policy of continuing the raids on the flimsiest of excuses might be counterproductive in the short term. It might inflate hostile feelings against foreign scheming and increase the regime's capacity to remain in power with the masses rallying behind it.

In other words, there is a very thin line that divides "the duty" from the extent of performing it and excess from exaggeration. There is no way to relinquish the coherent resolutions taken by the Security Council, which constitute an effective framework for deterrence. Attempting to take the initiative from the Security Council without any authoritative resolutions—as is the case with the southern area of Iraq and just the opposite case in the north—and then trying to unilaterally implement it in an exaggerated manner will lead to more unrest and will be counterproductive if it continues for some time.

The plans to lie in wait might spoil things in the end. It is understandable that the Clinton administration wants to highlight its intentions at the start of its rule through practical and effective means; however, it might be better if it measures its steps and deals with each case on its merit. The same can be said about Saddam's regime so as to avoid its destructive provocations.

Sudan

Al-Bashir on Shari'ah, Economy, Foreign Ties

NC3001123893 Tehran HAMSHAHRI in Persian
24 Jan 93 pp 1, 11

[Text] Three and a half years after the establishment of the "revolutionary" or "national salvation" government in Sudan led by Lieutenant General 'Umar al-Bashir, every correspondent who visits Sudan realizes that al-Bashir's group actually forms the military nucleus of Sudan's Islamic Movement, which holds political power, and that the "National Islamic Front of Sudan," led by Dr. Hasan Turabi, is behind all the government institutions and runs the country's affairs. Some of Sudan's military officials deny the existence of such a link between the government and the "National Islamic Front," while others admit to this link in private conversations.

It is true that religious, ethnic, and cultural diversity in Sudan casts a shadow on its political structure. But it is also true that the Sudanese Government, with a calculated program and with slow steps that are being kept far from the limelight of a propaganda commotion, is busy bringing about changes in the cultural, social, political, and economic fields in Sudan on the basis of Islamic thought. Of course, southern Sudan does not fall within this framework because of the Christian and secular minorities there.

The Sudanese Government is facing various problems now.

Economic problems, the crisis in the south, efforts by neighboring countries to prove the futility of Sudan's Islamic pattern, and the new crisis between Sudan and Egypt over the Hala'ib triangle have recently taken on threatening dimensions.

To inform its dear readers about the realities of Sudan and to better acquaint them with the incidents that are taking place in a country that is trying to establish the pattern for new Islamic rule in Africa, HAMSHAHRI interviewed Sudanese leader Lt. Gen. 'Umar al- Bashir in his office in Khartoum on the occasion of the 37th anniversary of Sudan's independence. Following is the text of this interview.

[HAMSHAHRI] Lt. Gen. 'Umar al-Bashir, three and a half years after you assumed power, what the political opponents of the Sudanese Government were stressing is gradually coming about. In other words, it is now clear that the Sudanese Government is inspired by the National Islamic Front, led by Dr. al-Turabi, especially since Your Excellency insists on the implementation of Islamic shari'ah. At the same time, you deny any links with the National Islamic Front. Please explain this.

[Al-Bashir] Actually the National Islamic Front is too limited to include all Islamic tendencies in Sudan. We believe that Islamic tendencies in Sudan emanate from the public feelings of the nation and when you look at the situation of Sudan's main parties, you can reach several conclusions. For example, the Ummah Party has been created on the basis of religious tendencies. The Democratic Unionist Party actually represents the Khatmiyah tribe, which is religious in nature. The slogan of this tribe in the elections was An Islamic Republic. The National Islamic Front has also topped its agenda with the implementation of Islamic shari'ah. Thus, the conclusion reached is that the popular base of the main parties in Sudan has a religious character, and these are the parties that sent their deputies to the Constituent Assembly.

On this basis, we should say that the Sudanese Government's Islamic tendency is a reaction to the general tendency of the people and not the tendency of the National Islamic Front or the Ummah and Democratic Unionist parties. As a result, I should stress that the government's program is not affiliated with any of the existing parties and that we are moving toward the interests of the Sudanese nation. Today I explicitly state that the Sudanese Government enjoys vast popular support. Of course this excludes those leaders and officials who have lost the privileges and support they enjoyed.

[HAMSHAHRI] But it seems that the National Islamic Front is organized in such a way that it is moving toward political rule and has all the key positions of the system in its hands. Thus, cannot one easily conclude that a single-party system is ruling Sudan?

[Al-Bashir] If we study the record of those who hold power today, we will see the majority leaning toward the National Islamic Front. The main reason for this is that when we assumed power we planned to use alert Islamic personalities. Naturally we concluded that a large part of these personalities were affiliated to the National Islamic Front. The outcome of the university graduates' elections is the best proof of this since the National Islamic Front won 100 percent of the vote in these elections.

Meanwhile, when the "revolution" took place, the supporters of this front backed it and this was at a time when the leaders of this front, like the leaders of the other parties, were in prison. Initially we dissolved all parties and said that the government would cooperate with everyone without considering their party or group affiliations. Therefore, I should stress that it was not the National Islamic Front that was after power and position, but we were seeking alert and outstanding Islamic personalities from other parties despite their inclinations. Despite their Islamic leanings, these people are primarily secular. Moreover, we were seeking to absorb those people who would be ready to serve the "revolution." As far as the Democratic Unionist Party is concerned, I should say that, unfortunately, with the exception of [Husayn Sulayman] Abu-Salih, who is now in charge of the Ministry of Welfare and Social Development, we were unable to find any other outstanding Islamic personalities in this party. Nevertheless, there are numerous other personalities who, despite their dependence on other parties, are in the leadership cadre now. For example, the governor of the Eastern Nile

Province is a member of the Political Bureau and the constituent committee of the Ummah Party.

[HAMSHAHRI] What we glean from your remarks is that initially your uprising was aimed at implementing Islamic shari'ah and establishing Islamic rule. Do you not think that this aspiration is contrary to the social structure of Sudan, which is formed of various ethnic, religious, and cultural groups?

[Al-Bashir] Of course it is true that Sudan has a diversity of religions and cultures. This is why we have made the implementation of Islamic shari'ah exclusive to the northern provinces where the majority of the population is Muslim and we have excluded the south where the majority of the population is non-Muslim. But the implementation of Islamic shari'ah in the northern areas does not mean that followers of other religions have been deprived of their religious freedoms, because we interpret religious freedom to mean that no one should be kept from practicing his own religion. This is the general framework of our activities. As far as the Christians are concerned, you see how their churches continue to operate and are respected. We have even undertaken to ensure the construction of churches. We will not, in any way, allow the rights of our citizens to be harmed because they follow another religion. In other words, no one will be deprived of a state, military, or diplomatic position on religious grounds. We have Christians in our Revolution Council and in our cabinet.

[HAMSHAHRI] But you yourself have chosen the slogan of Islamic fundamentalism as a pivotal slogan of your government and this is at a time when the decision-making centers in the region and in the world, and especially within the framework of what has today come to be known as the new world order, are at war with this phenomenon and this slogan. Because of the fact that Sudan's situation is exceptional, is Your Excellency not worried that you will be forced to give in to regional and international pressures?

[Al-Bashir] Actually, we assumed power with Islamic motives and we believe that God's consent is above everything else. In one of the holy scriptures it says that if someone wants to gain the consent of another at the cost of God's rage, God will place his fate into the hands of others, but if God's consent is gained at the cost of the rage of others, then God will preserve him. Thus, we are not worried.

[HAMSHAHRI] The important question is: What has the "salvation" government or, according to you, the "revolutionary government" offered to the Sudanese people in the economic field during this period?

[Al-Bashir] The most important achievement in this field has been the alteration of Sudan's economic structure from a state economy to private ownership. The outcome of this economic program has been manifested in the transfer of subsidies from urban areas to rural areas. Statistics on this show that the gross national product during the first year since the implementation of this program faced a 1.5 percent drop but that in the second year it started to rise and increased 2.7 percent. The growth in national income in the third year was 11.2 percent. This year the figure is expected to reach 15 percent and this is the highest rate of growth that can be found in the world today. Of course this situation may place pressures on the middle class and people with a stable income. But in the long run, a favorable balance will be created between the villages and the cities and our national economy will move toward self-sufficiency. The first signs of this self-sufficiency can be seen in the cultivation of wheat, corn, and cereals.

To solve the problems of the vulnerable strata, the government has implemented a program in the form of monthly assistance to about 700,000 families.

Meanwhile, in continuation of the process of improving Sudan's economic structure, we have eliminated state speculation in foreign trade and have introduced Islamic law in banking. With this program, the government has been able to increase its income through taxation.

[HAMSHAHRI] Allow me to proceed to Sudan's foreign relations and ask: Before you came to power, Sudan's foreign relations were extremely active. After you seized power, Sudan's foreign relations, especially with Arab countries and specifically Egypt, are facing problems and this situation is continuing. Is this situation to your country's benefit?

[Al-Bashir] The truth is that we have not treated any country, especially not any Arab country, badly and all the accusations aimed at us such as that we support terrorism or we have set up a terrorist training base with Iranian Revolution Guards are all lies that no one has been able to prove. No one has been able to find a single terrorist in Sudan and no one has been able to prove the existence of terrorist training bases in Sudan. I believe that the primary reason for these accusations is that we have decided to live independently. Therefore, they prefer to harm Sudan's face abroad. Our steadfast belief in independence and our insistence on Islamic tendencies has upset many countries, namely Arab ones. In other words, these are the same countries that tell their people that Islam tops their agenda and whose support for Islam should come naturally. These are the countries that are now upset because Sudan is implementing Islamic programs.

[HAMSHAHRI] But your crisis with some neighboring countries, such as Egypt, has emerged in the form of a border dispute like the Hala'ib crisis. Why is the Hala'ib crisis not being solved?

[Al-Bashir] We did not delineate the borders between Egypt and Sudan. In other words, the Sudanese people as such were not the ones who drew the line separating Sudan from Egypt because Sudan was a British and Egyptian colony. It was Britain and Egypt who considered that this triangle (the Hala'ib triangle) belonged to

Sudan. This has always been the case. The people who live in this triangle have always participated in Sudanese elections as Sudanese citizens. Egypt has never asked them to go to Egypt to vote. This triangle was formed as a place where the al-Bishariyah tribe of Sudan and the al-'Abadiyah tribe of Egypt could settle. But since the population of Hala'ib is formed of the al-Bishariyah tribe, this area was considered Sudan's. Actually, Egypt started the problems when Iraq occupied Kuwait because we did not agree to support the American troops. This is why the accusations against Sudan started.

[HAMSHAHRI] I am sorry to interrupt you and to remind you that during the allies' war against Iraq, Sudan stood next to Baghdad. Without wanting to make any judgments here, Sudan's support for Iraq continues. It is even said that your relations with Libya and Iran constitute one of the main reasons for the emergence of this problem. Why do you not try to extend your foreign relations beyond this point?

[Al-Bashir] As I pointed out previously, we do not have bad relations with any country. Immediately after Iraq's occupation of Kuwait we stated that this crisis should be solved within the framework of the Arab League. In other words, we believed that the Arab League should study all the possible solutions and resort to other means if faced with an impasse. The Arab countries should not have gathered to receive a previously compiled program and say that the Western troops should be called in to help. Sudan's stance on this was different from the stance of the other Arab brothers. At that time we clearly explained that we supported the Arab brothers' efforts to reestablish Kuwait's national sovereignty. We also supported Saudi Arabia's stance on asking for the assistance of forces from the Arab or Islamic countries to defend it. But we opposed that part of the program that led to the invitation of Western forces to defend Saudi Arabia. Nevertheless, my program was to take a step toward bringing back the situation that existed before the occupation of Kuwait, hence my decision to visit Saudi Arabia and Iraq. The Saudi leaders felt I should visit Iraq first. I went to Iraq and met with Saddam Husayn and asked him to withdraw from Kuwait. Saddam Husayn accepted my proposal. But when I was on my way to Saudi Arabia as planned, pressures started and I had to stop my mediation mission.

As for your view that Sudan's foreign relations are limited, I should say that you are wrong. We have very good relations with Syria. We have extended a hand to all countries to strengthen our relations. The time has come for us to use the experiences of the first and second (Persian) Gulf wars. These two wars have wasted the immense potential of the area.

[HAMSHAHRI] There is a serious question about the reality behind your relations with Iran. There are reports that a strategic pact is being discussed between Sudan and Iran and that the Arab governments consider this pact a threat. Can you please explain the nature of Sudanese-Iranian relations?

[Al-Bashir] Our relations with Iran are like our relations with any other Islamic country. It is true that because of the Islamic tendencies of Iran's political leadership, which is a common point between our two countries, we grant Iran a special place. But these relations should not have a negative impact on Sudan's relations with other countries and especially with the Arab countries. As I previously pointed out, the main problem is that we have explicitly stated that we are an independent country with an Islamic tendency, hence the concern felt by the big countries over the existence of any type of relationship between Sudan and Iran. But we have no doubts in what we do and we want to further bolster our relations with your country, especially in the economic and cultural fields. This strengthens the determination of the Muslims.

[HAMSHAHRI] Lieutenant General, I would like to speak about the situation in southern Sudan. It is said that the condition that you put forth for accepting a cease-fire is that the other side should lay down its arms and surrender to you.

Without entering into the process of a political solution with the leaders of the opposition, what solutions do you have for solving the crisis?

[Al-Bashir] Before stating any opinion, I would like to draw your attention to the fact that we firmly believe that the crisis in the south has a political aspect and that the solution should be political as well. Therefore, we have granted priority to the problem in the south in our programs. We have studied all the political solutions and even the experiences of other countries that have a problem or a social structure similar to Sudan's. We have explicitly admitted the existence of a crisis in the southern part of our country. We believe that national wealth should be justly distributed throughout the country. There should also be just participation in the political rule. The relation between government and religion should be clearly specified. Our decision was to introduce a federal system in Sudan and we are now implementing each and every point. Within this context, local governments with full rights and one legislative assembly per province will be established.

[HAMSHAHRI] Do you mean that the southern provinces can become independent to a certain extent and have their own legislative assembly?

[Al-Bashir] The extent of independence that the provinces can have and what authorities the central government will have are all points for discussion. But I should stress to you that we are not seeking a solution that will impose a military defeat. We have adopted a peace-seeking political solution. We took long steps in the first phase of our talks with Garang's representatives. But when the government representatives returned to Khartoum, Colonel Garang rejected the agreements that had been reached. Later on we were informed that the head of Col. Garang's delegation who had signed the agreement was reprimanded by Garang. This was at a time when we had prepared ourselves for the next phase. You know that there is currently an argument between Garang and the head of his peace delegation.

[HAMSHAHRI] Why do you not prepare yourself for national reconciliation with all Sudanese factions and why are you not trying to gain the participation of the various political factions in power in the search for a mechanism to solve the problems of your country?

[Al-Bashir] By studying our country's history we have reached the conclusion that the major conflicts have been among the leaders of the various parties, and as I previously said, there have not been any problems among the popular bases of these parties. When you study the programs of the parties you can see that there are no differences. Therefore, what is the source of these conflicts? Frankly speaking, all differences rally around the political leaders and are also historic in nature. These conflicts are over personal interests and not matters concerning Sudan's development. We do not have any problems as far as the participation of the various forces in rule is concerned, but this participation should not be based on party platforms because the people of Sudan are no longer ready to repeat the experience of the parties, which have been the source of adversities.

[HAMSHAHRI] On what basis do you make such a decisive judgment?

[Al-Bashir] All those who are active in Sudan's political scene know that an agreement was signed between the leaders of the political parties and the leaders of the Sudanese unions. This agreement was known as the "charter in defense of democracy." Under this charter, if a military coup took place in Sudan and martial music was heard on the radio, the people would go on a general strike. Do you know what happened when the "revolution for salvation" took place and we issued our first statement? Immediately after hearing our statement, all the farmers of the al-Jazirah scheme (the largest agricultural project in Sudan) who were on general strike ended their strike and returned to work.

This was the first time that the exact opposite of the former situation was taking place and the reason for this should be sought in the failure of the experience of the parties.

[HAMSHAHRI] But there is actually only one party present on the scene and this is the National Islamic Front, while the ban on parties applies to other parties.

[Al-Bashir] This ban applies to all parties, including the National Islamic Front.

[HAMSHAHRI] But any independent observer can see that Sudan's National Islamic Party is active everywhere.

[Al-Bashir] I told you that the door is open to whomever agrees with our principles. The members of the National Islamic Front stood next to us and did their best.

[HAMSHAHRI] Your answer is not convincing. Please allow me to ask you when you, the military, intend to hand over power to civilians?

[Al-Bashir] When the political and administrative structure of the country is completed. We have made great strides in this direction, especially in the provinces. We have the issue of local elections behind us now and are working toward elections in the cities. As for the presidential elections, I should say that these elections will be held in the final stage and will be in the form of the people's direct votes. The main reason for this is so that we do not proceed to a system that will lead us to a military coup. We have made great efforts to outline a new political structure and we have used the views of many experts on this. Some thought that we intended to hand over power to the parties. When we explained to them that we intended to hand over power to the masses, many of them came and expressed their views.

[HAMSHAHRI] Can you please say how long your studies for the completion of the political structure will continue and when you will hand over political power to a civilian government?

[Al-Bashir] We will be able to hand over power in at least two years.

[HAMSHAHRI] My last question is on Sudan's political siege. Are you not worried that the Somali experience will be repeated in your country?

[Al-Bashir] Never. There are no such concerns and worries in Sudan. I believe that the Americans are too weak to become involved with us. Actually they are worried about entering into a conflict with the Sudanese. Our situation is different from Somalia's, but we are closely watching the situation. We reject any type of foreign guardianship over even one inch of Arab and Islamic land.

[HAMSHAHRI] General, we thank you for having devoted some of your time to us.

Numayri Rejects 'Opposition From Outside'

PM2901162193 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 28 Jan 93 p 6

[Mu'awiyah Yasin report: "Numayri Tells AL-HAYAH: Al-Bashir Regime Most Corrupt Regime Ever To Govern Sudan"]

[Text] London—Former Sudanese President Ja'far Numayri has described Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan al-Bashir's regime as "the most corrupt regime ever to govern Sudan." He accused Dr. Hasan al-Turabi, secretary general of the Islamic Arab Popular Congress, of "not telling the truth" about his National Islamic Front's links with the regime. He said that their past school colleagueship and work friendship will not prompt any contacts between them. And he criticized the

Sudanese opposition and vehemently attacked former Prime Minister al-Sadiq al-Mahdi.

From his residence in Cairo, where he has been living since his overthrow by a civilian uprising in 1985, Numayri told AL-HAYAH that Lt. Gen. al-Bashir's regime "has left no aspect of life in Sudan unsabotaged, as the country no longer has relations with Africa, the Arabs, or neighboring states."

He accused the regime of arresting citizens without any charges; "in fact without revealing where they are held. So not only is it violating the detainees' rights, but the rights of their families as well."

Numayri said that a large number of officers who were among his guards and his office staff during his term as president of the Republic of Sudan have been arrested "for no reason but because they worked for Numayri and still know him."

He added that his information indicates that the country is now in even worse economic straits. "The highest monthly wage does not exceed $20, the equivalent of 3,000 Sudanese pounds. This is in the knowledge that one family spends over 2,000 pounds a day on food." He pointed out that the number of Sudanese visiting Egypt has increased recently "in an attempt by the poor families to increase their income through mutual trade, which yields insignificant revenues."

He said that "anything could happen" in Sudan—"like the citizens returning Numayri to power, or implementing a coup in the interests of whoever might carry it out." However, he said that he did not have the resources to allow him to coordinate the process of change in the country. He pointed out that he was experiencing difficult living conditions. "If it was not for others' contacts with me, I would not have been able to contact anyone. I cannot afford the cost of telephone calls."

Nevertheless, he threatened that elements loyal to him "are working silently and secretly" to rid the country of the present regime, which he described as "the most corrupt regime" Sudan has ever experienced. He said that the regime's corruption includes "granting traders affiliated to the Islamic Front licenses, prior information, and trade opportunities."

Numayri admitted that he had made contacts with Colonel John Garang, leader of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army [SPLA], which is opposed to the Sudanese Government. He revealed that Garang had sent him his representative in Cairo, "who visited me and briefed me on the situation." However, he said that the contacts in question had produced no agreement on carrying out a joint action. "Because they thought I was rich and in possession of millions stolen from the Sudanese treasury and deposited in Swiss banks and invested in textile factories, and that I could contribute to financing their army."

He added that the SPLA resumed contacts with him after its officials had been convinced that their financial information about him were untrue. "This time they requested that I exploit my contacts as former president to acquire weapons for their army. It is unreasonable for me to contact a foreign state to supply me with weapons or money at a time when the international community is working to establish peace and accord."

Numayri revealed that he had sent a letter to Muhammad 'Uthman al-Mirghani, leader of the opposition Democratic Unionist Party, in reply to the latter's congratulations on a previous feast day. He pointed out that Al-Mirghani met his brother Mustafa Numayri in a Cairo mosque and asked him to convey his greetings to his brother. "I considered it a cordial gesture, so I sent al-Mirghani a congratulatory message and invited him to visit me in my residence, but he has not yet responded to the invitation."

The former Sudanese president attacked former Sudanese Prime Minister al-Sadiq al-Mahdi and said: "I do not call him Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi, so that anyone who reads my statements will not think he is like his grandfather, Imam (Muhammad Ahmad) al-Mahdi. I always call him al-Sadiq al-Siddiq 'Abd-al-Rahman, because his positions resemble his grandfather's positions in nothing. In fact he is the leader of the Ummah Party al-Turabi wing."

On his school and political action colleague Dr. al-Turabi, Numayri said: "He is working to achieve something bigger than his and our capabilities. He wants to be a world Islamic leader. But he has given the entire world the impression that the Islam he is leading is a religion of terrorism and discrimination—which damages Islam's image greatly.

He pointed out that their secondary school colleagueship and his friendship with Al-Turabi, who worked as an adviser to him and justice minister during his period of rule, "will not force me to think about contacting him again, because he does not tell the truth about his Front's links with the regime. In fact he lies openly when he calls it the dissolved front. How could it be dissolved, when it is in control of everything in Sudan."

Numayri ruled out the possibility of a foreign attack against Sudan which other oppositionists expected following the U.S. forces' intervention in Somalia. He said that Washington is facing strong criticisms at the UN Security Council and inside the United States as a result of its recent policies.

He added that he does not expect the Libyan opening up to Egypt to continue, "because Col. Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi is mad." He criticized the Libyan-Sudanese alliance by asking: "Is it reasonable for any wise person to believe that Lt. Gen. al-Bashir's government and the National Islamic Front think that Libya is more advanced in its political experiment than Sudan, for the latter to adopt the system of people's congresses from it?"

He said that, no matter how often Col. al-Qadhdhafi claims that power is in the masses' hands, "he is the first and last ruler in his country. If he is balanced and sensible, why was his composure not reflected in reinforcing the Arab Maghreb Union? He is a man who works according to his whims. This is why his friendship with any quarter will not last."

Asked about the nonexistent coordination between him and the Sudanese opposition, Numayri said that he does not believe there is a Sudanese opposition in the first place. "There are pages published by newspapers and moving money. From our experience, opposition from outside the country is futile."

Over 1 Million Refugees Estimated in Country

EA0102194093 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1015 GMT 1 Feb 93

[Excerpts] Khartoum, 1 Feb (SUNA)—Sudan is currently playing host to a large number of refugees, estimated at 1,004,000 people. This was stated by Brigadier 'Abd-al-Rahman Sirr al-Khatim, minister of state for refugees' affairs, in a press conference held on 31 January. He added that the Ethiopian refugees, estimated at 300,000, constituted the largest number of refugees in the country. This figure did not, however, include the Eritrean refugees. [passage omitted]

Brig. 'Abd-al-Rahman Sirr al-Khatim added that the refugee commission had initiated contacts with the quarters concerned in order to register the Ethiopian refugees who had expressed a wish to return home voluntarily following the political changes in Ethiopia after the collapse of the Mengistu regime. [passage omitted]

Western Sahara

Minister Warns of Conspiracy Against Peace Plan

LD0102231993 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 2200 GMT 1 Feb 93

[Excerpt] Concerning recent developments in Western Sahara, the Saharan information minister reveals the existence of a new conspiracy being hatched against the Saharan people. According to Mr. Mohamed Saydati [name and title as heard], the conspiracy aims to blow up the international peace plan in connection with Western Sahara. The Saharan information minister pointed out in a news conference held today at the headquarters of the Saharan Embassy in Algiers that the UN secretary general's recent report on Western Sahara is an attempt to allow this conspiracy to pass, which is nourished by Morocco in coordination with France.

Saydati affirmed that the Saharan side rejects this attempt, which aims at delivering a policy fait accompli and adheres to the UN peace plan agreed upon with the Moroccan side, which aims at organizing a public referendum under the auspices of the United Nations. The information minister also warned the international community and the Security Council against drifting behind this conspiracy and called upon them to bear their responsibilities in implementing international legitimacy.

Saydati affirmed the Saharans' adherence to the Spanish census of 1974, which he considered the basic foundation for the preparation of the lists of participants in the self-determination referendum in Arab Sahara. [passage omitted]

Expresses Support for UN Plan

LD3001153993 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 30 Jan 93

[Excerpt] The Saharan information minister today visited radio and television stations and looked at major installations, equipment, and working methods there. He was accompanied by the directors of the two national enterprises and a number of executives.

Our colleague Rachid Benhmimid seized this opportunity to ask him a question about the UN peace plan, the right of the Saharan people to self-determination, and the progress achieved so far in this respect.

The Saharan minister replied: [begin voice recording] I would like to stress that we will continue to cooperate with the international organization [UN] for the implementation of this plan which, I repeat, was endorsed by the UN and was accepted by the two sides, namely the Kingdom of Morocco and the Popular Front for the Liberation of Saquia El Hamra and Rio de Oro (Western Sahara) [Polisario].

As regards the issue itself, the UN secretary general is putting forward nearly three options [as heard], but as far as we are concerned I would like to say that there is only one option—that every effort should be made to implement the peace plan agreed by the two sides.

I would also like to say that efforts should be made to remove the outstanding obstacles which are not made by the Saharans. I must stress this once again: These obstacles must be removed to open the way for the full implementation of the UN plan, which provides for the holding of a free, just, and fair referendum for the Saharan people. [passage omitted] [end recording]

UN Inspector Says Bombed Factory Did Civilian Work

JN0202114493 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 2100 GMT 2 Feb 93

[Text] The chief of the UN inspection team that left the country recently has said that the al-Nida' factory in Baghdad's southern neighborhood, which was targeted by American Cruise missiles on 17 January, was not engaged in the production of military hardware and that, after the Gulf War, it was converted to civilian functions. In a press statement he made in Manama today, he made it clear that the factory has been converted for the production of civilian mechanical equipment and that it has been operating in this capacity for over a year.

'Aziz on Compliance With UN Resolutions

LD0202113193 London BBC Television Network in English 0815 GMT 31 Jan 93

[Interview with Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz by David Frost; from the "Breakfast With Frost" program—live; 'Aziz is in Baghdad, Frost in a studio in London]

[Text] [Frost] Good morning, Mr. 'Aziz.

['Aziz] Good morning.

[Frost] This week on Monday, you said that as far as Kuwait is concerned, for Iraq the chapter is closed, you said, and are the people worried about the rest of the book, but basically are you saying when you say the chapter is closed that in fact you are recognizing Kuwait as an independent sovereign state?

['Aziz] I would stick to my statement that the chapter is closed. I don't want to elaborate on that because elaboration at this moment is going to confuse the position of Iraq, which I don't want it be looked at in that way.

[Frost] But are you saying though, that you have no new territorial claims to Kuwait?

['Aziz] Well, at the present moment, as you know, the position of Iraq is that Iraq has accepted Resolution 687, and by accepting that resolution it has shown compliance with this decision of the Security Council. That's enough as far as Iraq is concerned.

[Frost] I see. So you are saying, you are pledging that you are not going to attack Kuwait again, you are pledging in other words that you are not going to attack Kuwait again?

['Aziz] Sorry, I am not hearing you, if you will please repeat your question.

[Frost] I will; it is a good question to repeat. What you are saying is, pledging that you are not going to attack Kuwait again?

['Aziz] We don't have such intentions.

[Frost] Do you sense a different attitude after a few days by President Clinton compared to President Bush?

['Aziz] Well, I'm very much sorry I didn't hear your question very clearly you see, I'm very sorry about that.

[Frost] We are sorry too because it's the technical side, but we will try carrying on for the moment. What I was saying was do you think there is a different attitude to you from President Clinton compared to President Bush?

['Aziz] Well, we did not seek confrontation with President Bush; that was his own policy. With the new administration we would like to open a new chapter. As far as Iraq is concerned, we would like to have normal relations with the U.S., as I said a few days ago. If the main interest of the new Government in the United States is the question of the implementation of the resolutions of the Security Council, then this question could be discussed bilaterally and within the Security Council in a professional objective manner, and they will realize—the new administration will realize—through such kind of discussion that a great deal of implementation has taken place already, and that should be taken into consideration in the assessment of the present situation. What happened in the past, which was unfortunate, was that the Bush administration deliberately obscured the implementation, the degree of implementation, because it wanted to use that as a political tool to destabilize the Government of Iraq....

[Frost, interrupting] But the point there, Mr. 'Aziz, is that this whole thing was not triggered off by President Bush. It was triggered by Saddam Husayn invading Kuwait. And there are a tremendous number of resolutions, as you know, from stopping blockading the north and limiting the number of UN personnel, as you have been doing, returning Kuwaiti property, so many things that you are not observing at the moment that anybody has to be concerned about that.

['Aziz] Yes, but that was a situation in which Iraq was harassed, and those minor problems were exaggerated and dramatized deliberately to confuse the political situation and to create a hostile climate against Iraq. What I said, and I stick to my point, is that if an objective assessment takes place about the degree of implementation by Iraq of the resolutions of the Security Council, any fair observer would realize that a great deal has been implemented, that the most essential aspects of the UN resolutions have already been implemented by Iraq. But that fact was deliberately obscured and confused because they wanted to continue the sanctions, they wanted to continue the harassment against Iraq, the isolation of Iraq....

[Frost, interrupting] Yes, but the point is, Mr. 'Aziz, there are, as I listed, four or five, and there are many more, there are many things that you could do in terms of going along with UN resolutions that would improve the atmosphere. But do you agree with Les Aspin and a lot of other speakers who said that sanctions will never end as long as President Saddam is the dictator of Iraq?

['Aziz] Well, that is not in the resolutions of the Security Council. That's a political attitude taken, or was taken by the Bush administration and to a certain extent by the British administration, British Government. That is not in the Security Council resolutions, so if they want to mix the Security Council resolutions with their political hostilities against Iraq, that shows disrespect to the Security Council resolutions.

[Frost] Well now, on the other hand the UN secretary general did say on 14 January that all of the coalition's actions conform to the resolutions of the Security Council and to the Charter of the United Nations.

['Aziz] I did not hear you well, Mr, Frost.

[Frost] I was saying the secretary general on 14 January did say that the coalition's actions, the bombing and so on, conform to the resolutions of the Security Council and to the Charter of the United Nations.

['Aziz] Well, that's a personal opinion which was not supported by the majority of the Security Council members. Many Security Council members showed dissatisfaction with what happened, you see, against Iraq. I think that was very wise on behalf of Dr. Butrus-Ghali, but the main question is that there is a great deal of implementation by Iraq of the Security Council resolutions. This matter has to be reviewed in a professional, technical manner without confusing it with the political intentions of this government or that government.

[Frost] What I'm suggesting is, though, that the situation is that the way that this could happen is first of all by Iraq going along with lifting the blockade of the north, stopping limiting the number of UN personnel and restricting their movements, returning Kuwaiti property, giving a full written declaration of all the weapons, cooperating with the special committee set up the UN, and on and on. There are lots of things you haven't done, Mr. 'Aziz, don't you agree?

['Aziz] No, that is a biased assessment of the situation and that's what we suffered from in the past. As I said—and I emphasize what I said—that if a professional, unbiased, unprejudiced assessment takes place in the Security Council by the Governments of the United States and Britain about how much Iraq has implemented those resolutions and those issues which you mentioned, then the result will be completely different.

That assessment was and still is a political assessment; it's not a professional assessment of the degree of the implementation. Look what Ambassador [name indistinct] said lately, who is in charge of the implementation of Chapter C of Resolution 687, which is the most important section of that resolution. He said lately that Iraq has already implemented 90 percent of its obligations, and this degree of implementation was obscured by the Governments of the United States and Britain; and that's political, that is not legal, that is not professional. That is the problem.

What we want now from the new administration and as well as from the British Government is that to keep their hostilities against the Government of Iraq aside, not to confuse it with the UN business, and let us work together to assess the degree of implementation. If there is any aspect which still needs to be addressed, we are ready to address it in a serious manner.

[Frost] Right. One last area I want to come to, but let me just say for the benefit of our viewers that our research does show that most people here in the Foreign Office in London, in Washington, and elsewhere don't think that Iraq has implemented those resolutions 90 percent. They put the figure between 20 and 30 percent....

['Aziz, interrupting] No, that is unjust and that is incorrect.

[Frost] OK, I expected that you would say that. One last thing: I was saying to you earlier that if Iraq wants better relations with the world and the coalition and the UN, I was suggesting that what you should do is to observe the UN resolutions, and you have answered that point. If you want better relations with Britain, Mr. 'Aziz, if you want better relations with Britain, they could be helped a great deal, I would have thought, if you took a look at the case of the two British prisoners, Mr. Wainwright, who got 10 years, and Mr. Ride, who got seven years for just illegal entry, which is scarcely a crime in the rest of the world. Would you be prepared to review those cases? That would be concrete evidence of a change of heart.

['Aziz] Well, we did address such matters in the past in a positive manner, but the British Government hasn't shown any positive attitude towards Iraq. It hasn't shown any understanding towards the plight, the hardships of the Iraqi people. There are people dying here in this country because of medical reasons, because of other reasons resulting from the embargo. We have hundreds and millions of dollars frozen by the British Government. Why shouldn't they allow us to buy medicine from England itself, from your own companies, to cure our children. If they do that, if they show some humanitarian sympathy towards the Iraqi people, that will encourage our government and our people to show similar humanitarian sympathy. The humanitarian attitude should be a two- way street, not only demands on Iraq to do this and that.

[Frost] But the UN has said you can have 1.6 billion of oil [not further specified] sold if you will agree to it going for compensation and 70 percent at least for humanitarian aid in your country.

['Aziz] That's a very controversial decision and I cannot elaborate on it in a short sentence. But we have already money in your country, and we are ready to use that money by buying food and medicine to the Iraqi people. It's our money and it has [been] frozen unjustly. If the

British Government shows sympathy towards the hardship of the Iraqi people, then of course it will very natural that the Iraqi Government would show sympathy to the difficulties of two or three British citizens.

[Frost] Mr. 'Aziz, thank you very much for joining us this morning. I'm sorry if the sound was a bit odd at various points but we look forward to a face-to-face encounter at some stage.

['Aziz] You are very welcome.

[Frost] Thank you very much indeed.

'Arafat Arrives; Regrets U.S. Stand on Deportees

JN0202095493 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 0400 GMT 2 Feb 93

[Text] Mr. Yasir 'Arafat, president of the state of Palestine, arrived in Baghdad at the head of a delegation on a visit to Iraq last night. He was welcomed by Tariq 'Aziz, Revolution Command Council member and deputy prime minister; Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf, foreign minister; and 'Azzam al-Ahmad, Palestinian ambassador in Baghdad.

The Palestinian delegation accompanying Mr. Yasir 'Arafat comprises Faruq Qaddumi, head of the PLO Political Department; 'Abdallah Hurani, member of the PLO Executive Committee; and Sakhr Habash, member of the Fatah Central Committee.

In a statement to an INA correspondent, Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat affirmed that the true legend of reconstruction that the Iraqis' have realized, and most recently the completion of the Saddam river, indicates the greatness of the Iraqi people and the greatness of their leadership.

On Iraq's cease-fire decision, Yasir 'Arafat said: The Palestinian leadership has highly valued this initiative declared by the brothers in Iraq. It is a new chapter with the new U.S. Administration and other parties. It opens the way for building new relations and establishing new ground, both on the Arab and international levels, and it would enable us all as an Arab nation to confront the challenges posed to us under the new world order.

On the issue of the Palestinians deported by the Zionist authorities and the PLO's efforts to counter this crime, Yasir 'Arafat said: We continue to insist on the need to implement Resolution 799. Therefore, we have returned to the UN Security Council, especially after the letter sent by the UN secretary general after the failure of his two envoys' visits [to Israel] in light of the Israeli Government's intransigence, arrogant rejection of the implementation of UN resolutions, and refusal to comply with international legitimacy. He added: In view of all that, we have returned to the UN Security Council. We are now working with Arab, Islamic, and nonaligned groups, as well as other friends inside the UN Security Council, to expedite its convocation.

Concluding his statement to INA, Yasir 'Arafat, president of the state of Palestine, regretted the U.S. attempts to obstruct the convocation of the UN Security Council and adoption of two standards toward international legitimacy; one against the Arab nation and the Palestinian people, and another in favor of Israel.

U.S. Attitude on Israel, Security Council Viewed

JN0102154093 Baghdad INA in English 1320 GMT 1 Feb 93

[Text] Baghdad, Feb 1, INA—AL-THAWRAH daily, organ of the Arab Ba'th Socialist Party, denounced the United States' threats to veto any international resolution punishing Israel for its rejection to take back the Palestinians it deported to South Lebanon.

In an article published today, the daily said that this had been the case with the United States since 45 years, confirming that when it came to Israel, Washington always stressed that it would not allow imposing any sanctions against Tel Aviv.

The daily added that Washington followed different means to delay a Security Council meeting over the issue of the Palestinian deportees. But it said that when it was a question related to Iraq, the 30-state alliance, led by the United States, tried to give their own interpretation of the Security Council resolutions issued against Iraq to find a pretext for launching aggression against Iraq.

The daily pointed out that as far as the Zionist entity was concerned, the American officials believed that punitive policies against the Zionist entity would lead to nothing, though they did not hesitate to pursue such policy and use force against Iraq under the pretext of Iraq's noncompliance with the United Nations resolutions, without even consulting the Security Council.

It made it clear that the U.S. stances towards the issue of the deportees which openly encouraged the Zionist entity to defy the international will and ridicule its resolutions had clearly embodied the double-standards of the U.S. and its allies when dealing with international crises.

It concluded that such duplicity had effectively contributed to developing the international political position in favour of Iraq and to bringing a better understanding of its legitimate right to exercise sovereignty over its territories, let alone the fact that it had convinced wide information and political quarters that the conduct of the anti-Iraq imperialist-Zionist alliance was based on aggressiveness, injustice and selectiveness.

'Aziz Views Prospects for Dialogue With U.S.

PM0102161093 Paris LE FIGARO in French 29 Jan 93 p 3

[Interview with Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz by Remi Favret in Baghdad; date not given]

[Text] [Favret] Do you see any signs of a U.S. response to your offer of dialogue?

['Aziz] There have not yet been any significant reactions. It is up to them to decide. We have stated our positions clearly; the ball is in their court.

[Favret] On what specific points do you want dialogue?

['Aziz] Bill Clinton's new administration says that what interests it is implementation of the UN resolutions. We are prepared to discuss this in a professional and objective way. If the Americans also wish to discuss bilateral relations, they are welcome to do so.

[Favret] Are you trying to renegotiate the conditions imposed on you after the Gulf War?

['Aziz] No, the aim is not to renegotiate the Security Council resolutions, but to implement them in accordance with the UN Charter and the principles of international law. This means that these resolutions must be implemented with respect for Iraq's sovereignty, the legitimate right of the Iraqi people and state to remain a free and developed country. Finally, Iraq's concerns about its security must be taken into account.

[Favret] You do not agree with the interpretation of the resolutions made by the United Nations and Washington. What are your disagreements?

['Aziz] In the past, this interpretation was insincere. Two things were mixed: the implementation of the resolutions on the one hand, and on the other, the hostile policy pursued by the previous U.S. Administration against the Iraqi leadership. The United States, with the support of other countries, has used the implementation of the resolutions as a tool to destabilize our government and nation. This has nothing to do with the UN objectives as defined in the Charter. The latter protects the right of each nation to develop peacefully and freely without foreign interference. The real problem lies here. Iraq, for its part, is prepared to have discussions with the Security Council on all questions related to the implementation of the resolutions.

[Favret] Why did you delay?

['Aziz] One fact was constantly concealed by the Bush administration: Iraq has already implemented a very large part of the resolutions. Ambassador Rolf Ekeus, who heads the special commission responsible for implementing the most sensitive resolution—687—which relates to disarmament questions, has said several times that we have fulfilled most of our obligations. He recently mentioned the figure of 90 percent.

However, there is a link between implementation of Resolution 687 and the lifting of sanctions. The Americans have not authorized the Security Council to take this into consideration. Iraq has had to continue to suffer very harsh sanctions, despite the fact that it has made great progress in the implementation of Resolution 687. That is unfair. The only aim of this policy of harrassment is to destabilize the Iraqi Government, not to respect the text of the resolutions or to guarantee peace in the region.

[Favret] If 90 percent of the resolutions have been implemented, when and how will the remaining 10 percent be implemented?

['Aziz] Through objective dialogue and joint work by Iraq and the Security Council. We must adhere to the letter of Resolution 687, Paragraph 22, without allowing political interference.

[Favret] New inspection missions have arrived in Baghdad. Are we likely to witness the same incidents as in the past?

['Aziz] The work of these missions is being carried out normally.

[Favret] Discussions are due to start on the permanent surveillance of Iraqi military capabilities....

['Aziz] That is a different matter. We have not started. There are still points to be clarified with the Security Council within the framework of Resolution 687.

[Favret] You condemn the air exclusion zones in southern and northern Iraq. Will you challenge the allied air forces?

['Aziz] These zones are illegal. They are not based on anything, no UN resolution. This is a unilateral action by the United States, France, and Britain which aims to interfere in our internal affairs, to divide Iraq, and to reimpose the old colonial system. Therefore it is natural that we should oppose it.

[Favret] Even by flying your planes?

['Aziz] We are fully entitled to do so.

[Favret] Will you exercise that right in the immediate future or will you stick to the wait-and-see attitude you mentioned?

['Aziz] We have given the new U.S. Administration a chance to reconsider things objectively. The Americans must understand that the decision to impose a no-fly zone in southern Iraq in August 1992 was motivated only by Mr. Bush's personal situation. He was in serious difficulties during his election campaign, and he falsified information to impose this no-fly zone on us in the hope that we would take up the challenge.

That would have led to a large-scale military confrontation, and he would have reemerged in his role as commander-in-chief to overshadow a Clinton portrayed by him as a young man incapable of facing an international crisis. That is the only reason for the no-fly zone in southern Iraq. We decided not to challenge it militarily to avoid giving Bush what he wanted.

[Favret] Let us suppose that the embargo is lifted. Will Iraq honor its obligation to pay war reparations?

['Aziz] We have accepted Resolution 687 and we have said that we would implement it in full, including that point.

[Favret] Do you accept the methods laid down by the United Nations?

['Aziz] We have complained about the fact that 30 percent of our future exports will be taken; that is very high and unfair, but we have not done anything to prevent that.

[Favret] In 1991 you refused to allow the United Nations to sell some of your oil to buy food and medicines. Will you oppose UN control over your future exports?

['Aziz] There is a difference between taking a percentage of our export revenue for so-called war reparations, and controlling our oil. The export of Iraqi oil is a sovereign act, which should rest with Iraq alone. The UN resolution simply states that 30 percent of the revenue will be placed in a fund.

[Favret] Are you prepared to find an agreement on the technical ways of implementing this system?

['Aziz] Why not? If there were no violations of our sovereignty....

[Favret] If the embargo were lifted, you would have to face war reparations, your foreign debt, and rebuilding all at once. Is that not too much?

['Aziz] I clearly stated to the Security Council: Iraq will honor its debts. When the embargo is lifted, Iraq is prepared to reach an agreement with the countries concerned. Our country has great potential. Despite the Security Council's unfair resolutions, if the embargo is lifted there will be numerous opportunities in Iraq for France and other countries.

[Favret] You have said that Kuwait is a "closed chapter," but what have you learned from that chapter?

['Aziz] (Smiling—LE FIGARO editor's note) It is not my business to learn lessons. It is a closed chapter, that is all.

[Favret] The strategic context of the region has changed over the past two years. What is your perception of it?

['Aziz] Iraq's opinion, which is shared by a number of reasonable leaders in the region, is that the policy of weakening Iraq pursued by the U.S., British, and French Governments has led to a serious regional imbalance. The Gulf is no more secure now than it was before 1990. Iraq is an important regional power. Weakening us merely complicates matters.

[Favret] Have you restored contacts with the Arab countries that opposed you during the war?

['Aziz] We have normal relations with the majority of Arab states, aside from a small number that show no interest in resuming dialogue. As far as Iraq is concerned, we are prepared to restore ties with all countries, without taking into account their position during the aggression against Iraq.

[Favret] Is that true of Kuwait?

['Aziz] (Laughs—LE FIGARO editor's note) I think it is too soon to think of that. There are other countries, more important countries.

[Favret] You have not failed to take the U.S. elections into account. We have elections in France, too. What message will you send to the next French Government?

['Aziz] I have a message for the present government. Changing government is a national matter; it does not concern us. We will deal with any French Government, just as in the past we cooperated with the France of De Gaulle, Pompidou, Giscard d'Estaing, and Francois Mitterrand. They were excellent relations, and we regretted that the present government should sever them to follow a hostile policy toward Iraq which was dictated to it by the Bush administration. France merely followed the Bush administration's orders throughout, except for the latest bombing, that of the Rashid Hotel!

[Favret] During that time you always seemed to hope for a change of attitude by the French. Do you still hope for that?

['Aziz] We have constantly expressed our hope of seeing France return to friendly relations with Iraq. We have not had any positive reply. If a positive reply comes now, it will be welcome. Otherwise it is your business. If a new government comes to power in France—I repeat that I know nothing about it; that is a matter for the French people alone—and if that government wishes to revise its policy toward Iraq and make it more fair, we would be very satisfied. We will reaffirm to it our desire to resume good relations based on respect, mutual interests, international law, and the code of conduct of normal countries. We hope that France will break with the policy drawn up for it by the Bush administration. We would like for France to start dialogue with Iraq. We want to open a new chapter.

[Favret] You have proposed to the Americans that you should take account of their strategic interests in the region. Are you also prepared to do so for the Europeans, particularly France?

['Aziz] Ask any businessman, any diplomat. France enjoyed advantages in Iraq. It was an important protagonist in the region. By adopting a hostile policy toward us, did it find the same advantages elsewhere? Try to make an objective assessment of this experience. In my view, France has suffered a great loss, politically and economically.

Clinton Success Said To Depend on Keeping Promises

JN0102114693 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1035 GMT 1 Feb 93

[Text] Baghdad, 1 Feb (INA)—An Iraqi newspaper has asserted that the success of the new U.S. president's policy depends on the degree of his attention to the problems plaguing the U.S. public, in addition to reinforcing the UN role in a fair and equitable manner.

In an article today by Naji al-Hadithi, BABIL says that the test facing the new U.S. president is to what extent he will keep his promises and eschew the foreign policies adopted by the administration of his predecessor, criminal Bush.

The paper adds: The defeat of George Bush was an inevitable result of his foreign military adventures, leaving behind him chronic diseases plaguing social and economic life in the United States.

The paper explains that Bush's aggression against Iraq destroyed what was left of Bush's presidency and U.S. status, endangered world peace and security, and made the United Nations go off the course of defense for international legitimacy and law.

The paper concludes: The success of the new president depends on how credible he is in keeping his promises and getting rid of the U.S. foreign policy legacy left by Bush.

Newspaper Calls on UN To Lift Embargo

JN0202101493 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0851 GMT 2 Feb 93

[Text] Baghdad, INA, 2 Feb (INA)—AL-JUMHURIYAH has called on the United Nations to free itself of the influence of the powers controlling the UN decisionmaking, rectify its stand, and reconsider the decision to maintain the embargo.

In an editorial titled "the United Nations, and the Crime of Retaining the Embargo," the paper adds: Humanity will not forgive the people who hold sway at the United Nations and those who push for retaining the embargo against an entire people.

With its existence no longer justified, AL-JUMHURIYAH goes on, the unjust embargo amounts to a crime perpetrated by the forces of injustice and tyranny against the patient Iraqi people. This becomes all the more clear given that experts more than once have testified that Iraq, having complied with all the resolutions imposed on it, no longer has any banned weapons. Under the circumstances, the embargo should be lifted or, at any rate, eased in accordance with Article 22 of UN Security Council Resolution 687.

The paper continues: The situation brings into sharp focus the inconsistency of the United Nations as it deliberately looks the other way from crimes against humanity and at the same time insists on removing the weapons Iraq is banned from acquiring or manufacturing and searches for weapons Iraq is claimed to be hiding. This, when their successive teams have searched every site they suspected.

This time their pretexts proved of no avail to them, and their new military aggression and its attendant misleading anti-Iraq media onslaught was not much help to them. This is because Iraq has managed to expose the truth of their intentions and plans and the cover the United Nations has tried to provide for them.

The paper concludes by saying: Iraq's ceasefire decision was meant to deny anybody the chance of dragging it into a position whereby enemy plans are advanced and further damage is done to Iraq. The UN Security Council and its influential members could find no excuse to renew the embargo better than the council's brief and flimsy statement.

Turkey 'Obsequious Sidekick' of U.S. in Dam Project

JN0202111293 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1000 GMT 2 Feb 93

[Text] Baghdad, 2 Feb (INA)—Turkey's construction of a new dam on the Euphrates and its withholding water from Iraq is in harmony with the objectives of the 30-state aggression. An article in AL-'IRAQ, published today, adds: The Turkish Government's recent decision confirms that it is an obsequious sidekick of the United States, doing all its biddings without regard to other peoples' interests or international agreements and norms.

The decision, continues AL-'IRAQ, was made to gratify the accumulating malice felt by the al-Sabah and Al Sa'ud dynasties, after the Turkish Government was paid the price of this aggressive operation.

This unilateral action on the part of the Turkish Government should have a negative impact on the future of Iraqi-Turkish relations, and is bound to be opposed by the Turkish people, who often have expressed their positive stands toward the Iraqi people.

Turkey's interests hardly are advanced by such an inhumane and illegal project. The decision to build the dam was flawed; the interests of the Iraqi and Turkish peoples are furthered by the application of consultation and dialogue and staying away from arrogance, AL-'IRAQ concludes.

'Violations' of Airspace Reported to Arab League

JN0202090193 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 2100 GMT 1 Feb 93

[Text] Iraq's permanent representative at the Arab League has condemned the continuing violation of Iraq's airspace by American, British, and French aircraft taking off from bases in Saudi Arabia and Kuwait.

According to two letters he sent to the Arab League secretary general, he made clear that on 28 and 29 January these aircraft conducted 198 aggressive sorties, which constitutes a serious threat to the security, sovereignty, and territorial integrity of Iraq. These aircraft mounted 88 sorties on 28 January and 210 on 29 January. Attached to the Iraqi delegate's letter to the League were two detailed statements showing the areas and cities where the violations took place.

Vice President Ramadan Leaves on Visit to Algeria

JN0102135893 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1312 GMT 1 Feb 93

[Text] Baghdad, 1 Feb (INA)—Taha Yasin Ramadan, Revolution Command Council member, vice president, and President Saddam Husayn's personal envoy to his brother Algerian Leader Ali Kafi, today left Baghdad for Algiers.

In a statement to INA, Taha Yasin Ramadan said he is carrying a message from President Saddam Husayn to his brother Algerian leader Ali Kafi which concerns relations between the two fraternal countries and current Arab affairs.

Taha Yasin Ramadan said he will discuss with the Algerian prime minister and officials the bilateral relations and prospects for improving them for the benefit of the Arab nation's interests and strength. He said he will also discuss Algeria's role in confronting the unjust blockade imposed on the people of Iraq.

Ramadan voiced high appreciation of the distinguished stand taken by the fraternal Algerian people to support their brothers in Iraq which demonstrated the depth of their genuine pan-Arab affiliation and a truly jihad stand.

The Revolution Command Council member said he is confident the Arab nation will continue its awakening and progress, unaffected by the means of aggression, conspiracy, and treachery.

He said Iraq alone has managed to foil the biggest military, economic, political, and propaganda aggression against the Arab nation and to achieve the greatest victory for the Arabs in the honorable duel of the Mother of Battles, which reinforced the Arab masses' strength, adherence to principles, and preparedness to continue the jihad and defend their sovereignty, future, and progress.

Taha Yasin Ramadan is accompanied by Foreign Ministry Under Secretary Sa'd 'Abd-al-Majid al-Faysal and a number of officials.

Defense Minister Visits al-Rashid Forces Sector

JN0102195493 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 1 Feb 93

[Excerpts] Staff General Fighter 'Ali Hasan al-Majid, Revolution Command Council member and defense minister, today visited the al-Rashid Forces operational sector, affiliated with the First Army Corps.

In the presence of Comrade Khadr 'Abd-al-'Aziz, member of the Iraq Command of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party and official in charge of the party organizations in the al-Ta'mim and Irbil Governorates, he met with the First Army Corps commander, who holds the rank of a staff major general. He was briefed on the nature of the continuous coordination and cooperation between the corps' units and the party organizations in the governorate in a way to bolster the citizens' security and stability. [passage omitted]

In the presence of the Army chief of staff and a number of his aides, the defense minister also met with the al-Rashid Forces commander, who holds the rank of a staff major general. He listened to a detailed briefing on the nature of the training courses of all the commands in the sector, the level of their performance, and means of promoting their daily activities in a way to reinforce their combat ability. [passage omitted]

The defense minister also met with the fighters the commander of the First Army Corps and the commanders of the divisions in the sector. They briefed him on the nature of the activities of the fighters in their sectors and their high level of performance. [passage omitted]

SAIRI Says Drainage Canals To Drain Marshes

LD3101111993 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 31 Jan 93

[Text] The Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution of Iraq [SAIRI] announced yesterday that it has dug drainage canals in the sandy surfaces in southern Iraq in order to dry out the southern marshes of that country and to disable the Baghdad regime.

According to the SAIRI spokesman, immediately after the construction of those canals—which have been dug throughout al-'Amarah Province—the Iraqi Army launched attacks against the inhabitants of that region. The SAIRI spokesman added: All of those attacks were repulsed.

The spokesman did not mention when the drainage canals were dug in the sandy surfaces in southern Iraq or when the subsequent clashes occurred.

Cabinet To Release 100 Deportees, Reduce Exile

NC0102192193 Paris AFP in English 1915 GMT 1 Feb 93

[Text] Jerusalem, Feb 1 (AFP)—Israel agreed Monday to allow the return of about 100 of the 400 Palestinians deported to south Lebanon and to slash the period of exile for the rest by half, Energy Minister Amnon Rubinstein said.

Israel would also helicopter medical supplies and food to the deportees who have been stuck in a south Lebanon no man's land since December 17, he said.

The decisions were reached unanimously at an inner cabinet meeting called by Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin following U.S. proposals to avert U.N sanctions against Israel which has defied Security Resolution 799 calling for the men's immediate return.

Rabin Views Decision

TA0102210193 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 2012 GMT 1 Feb 93

[News conference by Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin at the Prime Minister's Office in Jerusalem—live]

[Text] [Rabin] What has guided me and still guides me in relation to our peace and security policies are three basic components: The first is advancing the peace negotiations according to the Madrid format; the second is a war against terrorism in order to facilitate the peace negotiations, and first and foremost lately against the extremist Islamic terrorist organizations, Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] and the Islamic Jihad; third is an understanding with the United States, especially with the new administration of President Clinton, with whom we will have to coordinate actions in order to achieve the aims I mentioned over the next four years. I want to remind all those present that the current government, while prepared for compromises in order to achieve peace and security, took steps, even grave steps, against terrorism, especially by Hamas and the extremist Islamic Jihad. I do not remember any time in the past 20 years of a government deciding to expel, to remove, in one fell swoop, over 400 Hamas and Islamic Jihad activists—leaders, instigators, and organizers, who made up part of the infrastructure of those organizations—in addition to many hundreds of such activists who have been jailed or are in prison awaiting trial.

We have struck Hamas a tough blow, and what was reported yesterday about the arrival of two American Hamas activists of Palestinian descent, and the haste with which they were dispatched, only underlines the depth of the blow to Hamas. We, the government, made an unprecedented decision in removing over 400 Hamas leaders, instigators, and activists. We are satisfied that the High Court of Justice ruled as it did. Afterward, we faced—as we face now—a confrontation in the international arena, so it was very important to reach an understanding with the United States, and especially with President Clinton's administration. Therefore, following a dialogue between me and members of the administration which lasted for several days, we reached an understanding, in which Israel also undertakes to make decisions that are not easy, and I will not try to present them as easy.

I presented as my proposal the understanding reached between the United States and ourselves for cabinet approval this evening. The cabinet approved my proposal, and I bear responsibility for it. The government approved it unanimously. What is the proposal? First, the Israeli part: Here is the first thing. We will permit the return of some 100 deportees, and of course, we will decide which ones, and it is natural that they will be among those whose activities were less grave, although all were grave. Second, I instructed the chief of staff and the generals of the commands to halve the terms of the distancing. Third, if the need arises, we will assist an international element in providing supplies to the remaining deportees—about 300—by helicopter, not by land.

Fourth, all High Court rulings on the deportees remaining in the field or those who will leave for some place else remain valid, and we are prepared to implement them. I am referring to the right of appeal to an advisory committee, and the committee to reconsider the deportees' cases, which we promised the court to set up and which will continue to be active. Those are the steps Israel will take.

The United States, for its part, undertook to prevent decisions in international forums—I do not want to say where, you can understand that for yourselves—to prevent any decision that has operational significance for Israel. Second, it will try to renew the peace negotiations. The third thing agreed upon between the two governments is to view the understanding reached not as something temporary and not conditional on what Hamas deportees accept or do not accept, but as a package deal that binds both sides until the situation created in the wake of the expulsion ends. In other words, no salami tactics, but a package deal [preceding two words in English].

That is what was agreed upon, and I would like to say that we made decisions that dealt a heavy blow to Hamas. The High Court approved the decisions. We had to be prepared to face the international arena. We must be prepared for the reality of a new U.S. Administration, which I believe is friendly to Israel, and we had to set up with it an infrastructure of understanding that would permit us over the coming four years to try to exploit the opportunity to make peace and strengthen Israel, as well as to maintain its position in the international political arena. I know —our UN representative reported to me—that there are additional members of the Security Council, and not only Council members, which showed friendship to Israel and understanding for the need to fight Hamas as an element harming peace, and I thank them for it.

I hope that the United States—which by the way, also promised us to make an effort to find host countries for most of the deportees who will remain—more or less 300—so that they go somewhere else, but of course it cannot be forced on them....[pauses] I do not know if the approximately 100 Hamas members will accept the chance to return. When I say return, I do not want to say now to where. I do not know the names, I do not know the charges, and the legal system—both military and civilian—will decide the fate of each one separately. I have heard already, and I do not know if it is true, that CNN announced that if all the deportees do not return then no one will. I do not know if it is correct; I present the Israeli position.

I see it as not an easy decision to make, and I will not try to present it as such. In order to achieve the three targets—advancing the efforts to achieve peace, continuing the war against Hamas, and creating an infrastructure of understanding with the new U.S. Administration, even in such a situation, which is not easy—I recommended the government accept the proposal I presented.

We will continue to search for all ways possible to renew the peace negotiations, and I believe that the United States will act in the wake of that understanding to do so. I believe we will continue to fight, as we have shown that we do—we have taken steps that are almost unprecedented by any other Israeli Government to fight Hamas—and to hold a trustworthy, close dialogue with the United States, which is now the superpower and has many levers to advance the peace.

[Qol Yisra'el correspondent Shlomo Raz] Mr. Prime Minister, are other elements involved in the package deal, Syria for instance?

[Rabin] The understanding is between us and the United States. I believe that the Americans will act. Before coming here, I talked on the telephone with Egyptian President Mubarak, with whom I exchanged views on Saturday night, as well. I told him about the government decision and asked him to help advance, first and foremost on the basis of today's cabinet decisions, the continuation of the peace talks. I very much hope that many European and Arab countries understand the significance of the move taken by the Israeli Government, which on the one hand wants the resumption of the peace negotiations, but does not give up the war against all terrorist elements, and particularly against those that want to murder the peace.

[IDF Radio correspondent Uri Paz] Mr. Rabin, in view of today's government decision, do you regret the expulsion decision made in the cabinet seven weeks ago, or the way it was made, or its scope?

[Rabin] I am proud of the decision. I presented it to the cabinet. I believe it was a brave, irregular, unprecedented decision. Tomorrow, you will hear the criticism from the right wing. They did not dare to do such things. I have no regrets. I am at peace with the proposal I presented today, despite all the difficulties involved.

[YEDI'OT AHARONOT correspondent Shim'on Schiffer] Mr. Prime Minister, you said that you preferred a package deal to salami tactics. Could a situation not arise in which the Arabs reject the offer and the United States turns to Israel once again and asks for additional gestures? What assurance do you have that it is a closed deal with the United States? Another question: Have you informed the United States of the government decision already?

[Rabin] I will start with the second question. I informed the United States of the decision, and I suppose that in a short time a U.S. announcement will be made in New York. Things were coordinated and worked out in writing between us and the Americans, and I will not go into detail. With reference to the first question, the first thing in our dialogue with the United States was that this would be an understanding over the long run, even if other elements oppose it or do not implement our expectations as a result of the moves undertaken by the Israeli Government.

[Schiffer] In other words, you do not plan to make further gestures?

[Rabin] It is not exactly a gesture, it is the outcome of a dialogue with the United States, due to an evaluation of the need to create a basis for cooperation over the long run with the Clinton administration, which has just taken over and which found that problem as almost the first issue to be dealt with on the international scene.

[Unidentified correspondent] Mr. Prime Minister, next week the multilateral talks on arms control are due to be resumed. In view of that agreement or understanding, will the talks be resumed? What can be expected in the Security Council?

[Rabin] On the first question, I cannot give you an answer. I do not know if the arms control talks will be held next week or not. On the second question, I defined the understanding precisely. It says that no decisions will be made with an operational significance for Israel on that concrete issue.

[Israeli television correspondent Gadi Sukenik] Mr. Prime Minister, in fact all the circumstances that developed could have been foreseen, including the international pressure. What will you say tomorrow when all your critics say that Hamas has won a certain victory because the punishment has been reduced and you caved into international pressure?

[Rabin] Everything was known, but there were always question marks. There were question marks at the initial stage in the wake of unexpected holdups, but many had hoped that they would not take place. When the holdup occurred in the removal of the deportees, the Lebanese had time to prepare. Second, there was the Lebanese insistence on not permitting them even to leave Lebanon. Third, none of us could have known what the Supreme Court sitting as the High Court of Justice would rule. I did not know anything until I heard an announcement on the court ruling in the morning. Last, in reference to the international scene, I said a long time ago that we would not be applauded. I knew that it would be a new administration, which also has commitments on issues like human rights, and I knew I would be facing such problems.

I chose to make this decision under these circumstances. I view it, to a certain extent, as a compromise. I will not try to hide that. However, I see one thing clearly: Most of the deportees—72 or 75 percent—remain outside. The expulsion principle has been implemented. We said from the start that they would return. It was not a permanent expulsion. The compromise here aims not only to implement the principle of expelling the majority of the deportees, but also to create a basis for an understanding over the long run on that issue with the new administration due to a desire to understand its problems, as well.

[YEDI'OT AHARONOT correspondent Nahum Barne'a] Are the 100...

[Rabin, interrupting] About 100.

[Barne'a] Can the approximately 100 come back tomorrow?

[Rabin] No. I said within several days. I have to complete classifications based on categories; it will not just be names, because the expulsion orders were on an individual basis. We want to return the less grave echelon. I suppose that most of them will be among those removed for 18 months and not for two years. We must recall that 75 percent were removed for two years, and up to 25 percent were removed for 18 months. A team will work to decide who they are, one by one.

[Barne'a] The question is the profit Israel reaped from the deportee affair. When you made the decision, did you really consider the possibility that you would end up with 300 and not 400, with one year and not two, and perhaps with the loss of our deterrent power in relation to Hamas?

[Rabin] First, I firmly deny that Israel's deterrent capability in relation to Hamas has been harmed. Those who know what is happening, not only in Hamas but also in the entire Palestinian setup, know they were shocked by the very fact that this government dared to do what it did. Therefore, the blow to Hamas is not only due to the expulsion. We must recall that there are some 1,000 others in detention. We should look at the efforts made abroad to try to rehabilitate it. You received some of the information yesterday. Therefore, the war against Hamas will continue by other means, as well.

Environment Minister Comments

TA0102200793 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1928 GMT 1 Feb 93

[Interview with Environment Minister Yosi Sarid by correspondent Gadi Sukenik in the Knesset—live]

[Text] [Sukenik] The cabinet meeting ended minutes ago. The prime minister is now making his way to his office to hold a news conference with the international press corps. The following is the deal with the United States on the deportees: 100 deportees will be returned immediately to their previous status in Israel, and the expulsion terms of the remainder—some 300 Hamas activists—will be halved. In other words, all will be returned to their previous status in the territories within a year. Those are the details. There will also be Israeli humanitarian aid, something that has been avoided up to now. In addition, all the processes called for by the High Court of Justice, including studying the deportees' dossiers, will continue. Minister Yosi Sarid, who left the cabinet meeting, is with me. This is capitulation by Israel.

[Sarid] No, I believe it is a compromise that is very beneficial to the state of Israel. Whoever thought that the whole thing could end without compromise, without an Israeli contribution, was either naive or stupid. I believe it is a very good decision, as I said in the cabinet.

[Sukenik] The prime minister knew from the start that if he compromises on the deportees, the United States will give us full backing in the United Nations, and that is what is happening. Did we need all that time in which declarations that we would not move from our position were uttered, while in the end we did move?

[Sarid] Movement is not capitulation. Of course we moved, and I call that Israel's contribution. We are making our contribution; on the other hand, we are receiving something important in return. First, I believe we are receiving full U.S. backing, we are preventing a confrontation with the Security Council, and there is no longer a danger of sanctions imposed by the Council. We are starting the long march with the new U.S. Administration with the right foot forward, something that is important in itself. It is a positive start based on mutual trust, understanding, and, most important, the United States—to the best of my understanding and knowledge—views that understanding as a vital and sufficient condition to resume the peace process, which is the most important thing.

[Sukenik] The question is whether the deportees accept that version of the deal.

[Sarid] As you know, the deportees are not a party to the peace negotiations. They do not want peace with us at all; they want the opposite, so they are not part of the deal. However, I assume that the United States understands that under those conditions, the negotiations can be renewed and the participants be invited to reconvene around the negotiating table. That is the most important thing for the cabinet.

[Sukenik] To conclude, there has been a dramatic change in a deal on the deportees and their condition.

Reaction to Cabinet Decision on Deportees Reported

Government 'Caved In' on Issue

TA0202055293 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0500 GMT 2 Feb 93

[Text] The reaction among political parties at home to the cabinet decision on the deportees has divided on coalition and opposition lines. The Likud called it a cave-in. Knesset Member Binyamin Netanyahu:

[Begin Netanyahu recording] I understand that this was done under substantial international pressure, but I regret that this pressure was applied and that it was caved in to for the simple reason that Israel is not merely fighting its own war against Islamic fundamentalists and fundamentalist terrorists, it's fighting a broader war. If these fundamentalist terrorists are seen to be victorious—these are not peaceful people, these are people who incited mass murder—if these people are seen to be victorious, then terror will spread elsewhere: along North Africa, in the Middle East, and beyond the Middle East. If terror succeeds here, it will spread elsewhere. [end recording]

In other opposition reactions, the National Religious Party said the government had raised a white flag to terror. The Moledet party said that the only correct action taken by the government had melted away under an American dictate.

[A similar report on Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 0505 GMT on 2 February adds: "Tzomet states that the decision invites international pressure and terrorist attacks." Rabbi Ravitz of the United Torah Jewry party is reported to have said that "the expulsion was an appropriate move, and the cave-in is potentially dangerous."]

The left-wing Meretz party, a member of the coalition, praised the move. A statement said it contributed to renewal of the peace process.

Rabin 'Eternal Capitulator'

TA0202113993 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 2 Feb 93 pp 1, 15

[Commentary by Nahum Barne'a: "Falling Off a High Horse"]

[Text] No less than five times did Rabin repeat into the microphone last night: My government deported as no previous government has ever dared to deport. Fives times—but not once did it occur to him that the reason was brains, not cowardice. The deportation was his biggest test as prime minister, and he emerged badly bruised. The Americans provided him with a ladder which helped him fall off the high horse he had mounted.

The compromise Rabin made yesterday was justified under the circumstances. His problem and that of his cabinet was that they brought these harsh circumstances upon themselves. Rabin opened the door to the beast. Rabin will have to get rid of it and clean up afterward.

America has always been the key to understanding Rabin's moves, and it is this time, too: Rabin is convinced that his concessions to the Clinton administration have earned him American gratitude which he will enjoy with interest in the future.

If only that were true. On the other hand, he has regained the label affixed to him in the 1970's of being the eternal capitulator to American pressure. This label will not help him pass resolutions in Israel.

In practical terms, the administration has not promised to deliver anything we did not have prior to the deportation decision. For the time being, everything revolves around minimizing the damage: vetoing sanctions and lobbying with Syria, Lebanon, and the Europeans in a bid to disperse the deportees. Also, the administration will take action toward resuming the peace talks.

Rabin hopes, of course, that the deportees will remain in exile—preferably in the cold and snow, preferably without media coverage. This is his new brilliant maneuver, the main reason for the international media conference he convened last night. The world will forgive and forget. At his side, he will have the cabinet, the High Court of Justice, the nation—92 percent of it—and most importantly, the Americans. Maybe. With the luck he has had in this affair, it can ricochet in his face in the end.

After seven weeks of delirium, Israeli ministers understand that the deportations were a mistake. They have numerous excuses: They did not think of the rain; they did not think of the High Court of Justice; they forgot Lebanon has a government; they forgot that one day the Clinton administration would take over. All this information was available even then. They had only to look.

Egyptian Envoy Says 'Good Step'

TA0202101893 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 2 Feb 93 p 3

[Report by Arab affairs correspondent Smadar Peri]

[Text] "It is a good step which will allow the continuation of the peace process," Egyptian Ambassador Muhammad Basyuni said last night in reaction to the government decision on the deportee affair.

Speaking to YEDI'OT AHARONOT, Ambassador Basyuni expressed the hope that the compromise offered by the Israeli Government to put an end to the deportee affair will be accepted by all the Arab parties involved.

Basyuni said: "I do not know yet what the position of the other Arab parties involved will be. I speak as the Egyptian ambassador, and my country's stand is that this is a good move in the right direction.

"We consider this the implementation of UN Resolution 799, which eventually will lead to the return of all the deportees, after some of them are returned immediately. From our point of view, the decision to transfer food and medical supplies to the deportee encampment is good.

"The most important thing now is to resume the peace negotiations as soon as possible. After all, negotiations lead to agreements, and once agreements are made, there is no longer room for deportation procedures and acts of this kind."

Arab Israeli Knesset Member Views Deportations

NC0202092593 Cairo Voice of the Arabs in Arabic 0610 GMT 2 Feb 93

[Telephone interview with 'Abd-al-Wahab Darawishah, Israeli Knesset member and leader of the Israeli Arab Democratic Party, in Jerusalem, by Shihatah Abu-al-Majd, in Cairo, within the "Dialogue From Afar" program; date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Abu-al-Majd] The Palestinian deportees issue is being readdressed by the Security Council. We start this conversation with interactions on the issue inside Israel that affect the peace process.

[Darawishah] This issue has a great impact primarily on Arab-Jewish relations inside Israel, on Israeli-Palestinian relations in general, and on the region's peace process.

By this unjust, odious decision and its intransigence through its unwillingness to rescind, its refusal to submit to Security Council Resolution 799, and unwillingness to implement international legitimacy, the Israeli Government takes a position hostile to every human value, UN resolution, and international legitimacy. This creates a bad climate that hampers peace throughout the region. There is a wave rising in Israel, covering the (?whole) Arab community—the Palestinian people inside Israel—and the Jewish peace forces in Israel, which publicly announce their denunciation of this intransigent Israeli stance and ask the Israeli Government to adopt another position allowing the return of the Palestinian deportees who (?live) in south Lebanon in very difficult, tragic circumstances. This is also our position in the Arab Democratic Party and is the stance of other Arab brothers in the Knesset.

[Abu-al-Majd] What are your moves as an Arab Democratic Party and as a member of the Israeli Knesset in cooperation with peace forces in Israel to make the Israeli Government accept the Security Council's resolution on the Palestinian people's (?issue], the latest of which was Resolution 799?

[Darawishah] We conduct popular moves. We pitched the return tent outside Prime Minister Rabin's office immediately after the deportations. There are Arab Knesset members, members of the local Arab authorities, Arab [word indistinct], Arab women and children, and Jewish peace forces known for their humane positions in this tent, announcing our denunciation and determination to repatriate the deportees.

Seminars are held and demonstrations staged, the latest of which was a demonstration two days ago by thousands of torchbearers who roamed Jerusalem's streets and headed from Rabin's office to his home. They announced strongly and indignantly their denunciation of the deportations and asked the Israeli Government to rescind this unjust decision. We also seek to mobilize Israeli and world public opinion against this measure. Besides, as members of the Israeli Knesset—the Israeli Parliament—we keep raising this issue, asking the Knesset to make a decision forcing the Israeli Government to return the deportees. Regrettably, the coalition majority in the Knesset and rightist opposition parties are united against this stance that we adopt along with some Jewish peace-loving leftist forces. Usually we constitute a minority but our struggle continues with force, steadfastness, and patience so that the Israeli Government may make the required decision in every aspect of justice and logic to repatriate the deportees of our Palestinian people.

[Abu-al-Majd] The Israeli Government is trying to evade international pressure by leaking some news about the return of (?a third) of the deportees, a reduction in the deportation term, and so on. Does such news meet a response by peace-loving Israelis?

[Darawishah] The Palestinian people and peace forces expose and reject the Rabin government's attempts to appease the world and part of Israeli public opinion and their efforts to distract attention to block a decisive Security Council resolution denouncing Israel and imposing sanctions on it. There must be full implementation of the Security Council resolution and repatriation of all the deportees, not just a few. Proposals to return several score of them and to reduce others' deportation term and have others remain outside their homeland are unacceptable and unpractical. Yitzhaq Rabin must make a clear, practical decision to return all the Palestinian deportees.

[Abu-al-Majd] Do you, for instance, intend to contact influential parliaments and stage a march to al-Zuhur camp to meet the deported brothers? What will the next moves be?

[Darawishah] We met Dr. Butrus-Ghali's two representatives here in Jerusalem and reviewed the stance of the Palestinian people in Israel and the peace forces that support the deportees' return. We also hold contacts with foreign delegations here. A meeting was held some days ago with the European Parliament president, who led a delegation on a tour of the region. We asked Europe to take a clear position on this issue. We hold contacts with foreign ambassadors and ask them to ask their countries to pressure Israel into rescinding its decision. We—the Knesset's Arab members—also asked the Israeli Government to allow us to visit the deported brothers in south Lebanon to meet them and learn about their situation so that we might focus attention on their just cause, which deserves another resolution from the international community. We will intensify these efforts, because their suffering is increasing, the situation is becoming complex, and, regrettably, the peace process faces great difficulties because of this hardening Israeli position.

[Abu-al-Majd] Are there contacts with the United States, particularly as we know the new Administration has its own standing on which we must capitalize and particularly as the Administration affirmed that it insists on continuing the peace process? Do you have contacts in this respect?

[Darawishah] We have made two moves through the Arab Democratic Party. We asked President Clinton through the U.S. Embassy to assume a clear and frank position, pressuring the Israeli Government into submitting to the international will and implementing Security Council Resolution 799. We also sent a direct message to President Clinton asking him to assume this position. We are considering sending a delegation to the United Nations to meet Dr. Butrus-Ghali and Security Council members to ask them to take a frank and clear position and not continue a duplicitous policy that diminishes Security Council and United Nations prestige. The Security Council and the United Nations must adopt frank and clear positions and pressure the Israeli Government to implement the Security Council resolution or punish it if it fails to so decide.

One of 3 Suspected of Hamas Attacks Denies Role

NC0102152693 Paris AFP in English 1433 GMT 1 Feb 93

[Text] Jerusalem, Feb 1 (AFP)—One of three Palestinian-Americans arrested by Israel on suspicion of taking part in attacks by the Islamic Resistance Movement HAMAS denied belonging to the group in a meeting with a U.S. official, his brother said Monday.

"My brother insists on his innocence, and has categorically denied in a meeting with an official from the U.S. consulate in east Jerusalem being a member of HAMAS or of any other organization," said Ibrahim Sa'diyah, brother of Salah Muhammad 'Abd-al-Hamid.

A military spokesman announced Sunday that a bid to rebuild the HAMAS network in the Israeli-occupied territories had been foiled when two leading fundamentalists with U.S. citizenship, 'Abd-al- Hamid and Muhammad Jum'ah Jarad, were detained after they arrived from the United States.

An army spokesman said that security officials who searched 'Abd-al-Hamid's hotel room in east Jerusalem found 100,000 dollars from a Chicago bank account where 300,000 dollars had been deposited earlier, the Army said.

The spokesman said 'Abd-al-Hamid had admitted while under interrogation that he had already been sent on a mission here in August 1992 by senior London-based HAMAS official Muhammad Qasim Rashid Ma'ruf Suwal'ah.

But Sa'diyah told AFP that "the money that was found ... [ellipsis as received] which they said was destined to finance HAMAS, was the product of collections for Muslim charity work in the occupied territories."

"This whole affair has been fabricated to allow Israel to turn away world attention at the moment when the U.N. Security Council readies to examine the issue of some 400 Palestinians expelled to Lebanon on December 17," Sajadiah said.

Israel announced Monday the arrest of a third Palestinian-American, Muhammad Tawfiq Hajjih, also under suspicion of taking part in HAMAS attacks.

Fifth Trial Launch of Arrow Scheduled for Mar

TA3101094793 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew 31 Jan 93 p 15

[Report by Sharon Sade]

[Excerpts] The fifth trial launch of the Arrow missile will take place in March and the dry runs will begin within the next few weeks, defense establishment sources said. They added that the upcoming trial will test the interception capabilities of the missile, which will be launched against another Arrow outfitted with a weight in its nose cone. The trial launch had been scheduled for an earlier date, but it was called off due to a delay in the delivery of a component of the missile's steering system. [passage omitted]

The upcoming trial launch will start another series of four launches of the one-stage Arrow. At the same time, Israel Aircraft Industries is completing the development of the two-stage missile, which will constitute the final development of the Arrow missile. The first launch of the two-stage Arrow is scheduled in over a year's time. [passage omitted]

Knesset Defeats No-Confidence Motion

TA0102182293 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1700 GMT 1 Feb 93

[Text] The Knesset tonight rejected Likud and National Religious Party [NRP] no-confidence motions by 44 to 37. Our correspondent Hayim Hecht reports that the three HADASH [Democratic Front for Peace and Equality] Knesset members abstained. The United Torah Jewry party voted with the opposition.

SHAS Demands Ouster of Education Minister

TA2701191493 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1800 GMT 27 Jan 93

[Text] The SHAS [Torah Observing Sephardim] Knesset faction has sent a letter to Prime Minister Rabin calling on him to remove Shulamit Aloni from the Education Ministry. The move follows controversial statements yesterday by the education minister at a Jerusalem high school, including referring to [Joseph's] Tomb in Nabulus as the Tomb of Shaykh Josef. More details from reporter David Ze'ev:

SHAS tonight submitted a letter to Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin. SHAS political leader, Interior Minister Arye Der'i, told reporters the party is calling on Rabin to remove Shulamit Aloni from the Education Ministry and to give her a different cabinet portfolio instead. SHAS is now waiting for the prime minister's reply.

Minister Der'i said that unlike in the past, when the prime minister called on SHAS and Meretz to work out their differences by themselves, this time, Der'i said, the ball is in the court of the prime minister.

SHAS Knesset faction chairman Shlomo Benizri said the action tonight was ordered by spiritual leader Rabbi 'Ovadya Yosef.

Labor Knesset members [MK's] have expressed their opposition to the statements of the education minister, but both Labor and Meretz members of the house tried to persuade SHAS not to take this action—to no avail.

[A related report on Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew at 1830 GMT on 27 January adds: "Eight Labor MK's have sent Rabin a letter demanding that the education minister be removed from her post if she again makes controversial remarks, which, according to them, she is certain to do. This letter joins a heap of similar pleas on Rabin's desk, and the prime minister will apparently have to decide on the matter by the next cabinet meeting on Sunday."]

Two Arabs Killed in Janin, Other Incidents 31 Jan

TA0102055993 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0500 GMT 1 Feb 93

[Text] Soldiers opened fire at a car whose driver refused to stop at a roadblock in the Janin area last night, killing two Palestinians. The Army said the car had been stolen a few days ago from Netanya. Dani Gur-Arye reports:

Three Palestinians were in the car as it approached an Army roadblock near the village of Fahmah in the Janin area last night. The Army says when the driver noticed the soldiers, he made a U-turn to avoid the roadblock. The soldiers called on the driver to stop the car and then opened fire. As a result, two passengers in the car—Nasir Sarusi and Muhammad 'Abusi—were killed. The driver fled. Soldiers immediately closed the area and conducted searches. The Army said later that the two Palestinians killed were involved in a series of car thefts in Israel. An Army spokesman said the car they were driving, a white Subaru, was stolen last week from Netanya.

Soldiers clashed with Palestinians in the Gaza Strip last night, and there were light confrontations in other parts of the territories.

In Ramallah, soldiers fired on stone throwers, lightly injuring a 17-year-old youth.

In Jericho, an Israeli truck driver was lightly hurt from glass fragments last night when his vehicle was pelted with stones.

Three petrol bombs were thrown at vehicles in the Hebron area last night. No one was injured and no damage was caused.

Army Reportedly Raiding West Bank Mosques

TA0202111693 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 2 Feb 93 p 3

[Report by Mikhal Sela']

[Text] Over the past several weeks, the security forces have been raiding mosques in the West Bank, closing some of them by military decree. The West Bank population is becoming increasingly resentful of these attacks on houses of worship.

In Nabulus, soldiers entered at least four mosques and confiscated Koran's and other articles. The central Nabulus mosque has been shut down for two months. In at least two other mosques, the floor was damaged when soldiers dug there during searches but failed to repair the damage. Last week, a central mosque was closed in Tulkarm and soldiers confiscated equipment from the mosque in the Nur al-Shams refugee camp. The main mosque of Burqa' was closed, and soldiers raided five mosques in the Ramallah area. Last weekend, the Bi'r Nabala mosque was shut down.

Palestinian sources report that the security forces have entered offices belonging to charity committees in several cities in the West Bank, confiscated ledgers, and damaged property. Such a raid on the offices of the Janin charity committee took place last weekend. The charity committees are voluntary organizations, supervised by the Jordanian waqf, which devote the major part of their income to helping needy families.

"The worshipers have been discussing nothing else recently," says Zuhayr Dib'i, a Nabulus imam and preacher. According to him, until recent years, the Army respected the mosques and the people praying in them. Over the past few years, however, raiding mosques, shooting at worshipers, and damaging mosque property have become common practice. According to him, in one incident, a worshiper was killed when he was coming out of prayer, and several were injured in another incident.

Army, Police Report Terrorism Data for 1992

TA2701181093 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 27 Jan 93 p A4

[Report by Gid'on Alon and Tzvi Zrahya; all figures as published]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] A report delivered by military officials at yesterday's meeting of the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee indicates a rise in the number of terrorist attacks perpetrated in the territories in 1992. During that year, 2,018 terrorist events (ranging from Molotov cocktails to firearms) were recorded, as compared with 1,222 in 1990 and 1,887 in 1991.

The number of collaborators assassinated by Palestinians has also risen considerably. It stood at 110 in 1989, 212 in 1990, and 248 in 1992 [no figure for 1991 as published]. Conversely, the number of Palestinian fatalities from IDF [Israel Defense Forces] gunfire dropped drastically from 270 in 1989 to 108 in 1992.

[The same issue of HA'ARETZ carries a report by Re'uven Shapira on page A5 citing newly released Israel Police crime statistics: "Some 3,629 various terrorist attacks were perpetrated in Israel in 1992. Eighteen people, including 12 civilians, were murdered in these events; 72, including 63 civilians, sustained grave injuries. A total of 94 Molotov cocktails were reported, mostly in Jerusalem, as well as over 4,000 stone-throwing incidents. All the data refer to crimes reported to the police and perpetrated inside the Green Line."]

UNRWA Head on Operations in Territories

TA2801192593 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 28 Jan 93 p B2

[Interview with Ilter Turkmen, commissioner general of the UN Relief and Works Agency, UNRWA, by 'Amira Hess in Israel on 26 January]

[Text] [Turkmen] October 1991 was a landmark. The peace process started and the Palestinians and the delegation were swept with optimism regarding the future of the process. Gradually, this feeling disappeared, and tension and violence returned.

[Hess] How will you describe the two years since you were assigned this post in terms of their living conditions?

[Turkmen] There was another wave of cautious optimism when the new government was set up. There were several announcements on improvements. Six hundred detainees were released, but it is hard to say that the policy of occupation has changed, especially not when it comes to the refugees' daily life. The policy of curfews, closures, and house demolitions still exists. There was a feeling that this practice had stopped, but now I understand there is a new method: destruction of houses with antitank missiles. The Israeli Army continues its violent conduct against the Palestinians. Recently, many children have been killed, mainly in Gaza. And to top it all—the deportation. So, if we put two and two together, the expectations from the new government have not been fulfilled.

[Hess] Is this how you presented your position to your Israeli interlocutors?

[Turkmen] I did not come to tell them exactly what I am telling you. I did, however, express my concern over several aspects of the Army's conduct, mainly the practice of declaring closed military zones and the liberal use of firearms.

[Hess] What was their reply?

[Turkmen] They gave me the classic answer: Security is above all. They also said that this government is doing a lot to improve Palestinian economic conditions and that they welcome UNRWA's efforts to improve health and economic infrastructure.

[Hess] Do you believe them?

[Turkmen] There is indeed a more positive attitude to granting permits to various projects—ours, and mainly others. Our teams in the field confirm this.

[Hess] Did you discuss the deportees?

[Turkmen] I particularly expressed my concern for the situation of 16 UNRWA workers who were deported.

[Hess] Did your Israeli interlocutors not raise this fact as proof that UNRWA is not a neutral element in the territories and that its men are involved in subversive activities?

[Turkmen] They have never revealed to us the grounds for the suspicions against them. We were given no information about the things these men allegedly did.

[Hess] Did they tell you what they were suspected of?

[Turkmen] They did not, and 12 of the 16 were not even in detention. They were just picked up from their homes and sent to Lebanon.

[Hess] Did Rabin or Peres raise the issue of the 16 as an argument against you?

[Turkmen] No. We know that the regular reaction is that we must be more careful in selecting our employees; to which we reply that we cannot vouch for things our employees do on their own time. Naturally, we make sure that while at work they do not do things which do not coincide with their status, and we say that we are always ready to investigate if a legitimate complaint is made. Many UNRWA personnel are being detained and released without explanation, so we do not know what the charges against them are.

[Hess] Have you been told to be careful in your selection of employees?

[Turkmen] This is the answer we get whenever we raise the matter of one of our detained men.

[Hess] But did you raise the matter of only "your" 16 deportees?

[Turkmen] Of course not. Do not forget that most of the deportees are refugees.

[Hess] After your discussions here, is it your impression that you will now have to set up an office in the deportees' encampment?

[Turkmen] Naturally, this is out of the question. During the first three days after their deportation, we reached them through our office in Lebanon. We sent them food, medicine, and blankets. But, when the Lebanese Government decided not to allow the transfer of supplies through its territory, we stopped.

[Hess] This means that if you want to be involved in the issue of the deportees, you cannot do that within the boundaries of your humanitarian activity. Is a political stand all that is left?

[Turkmen] An independent UNRWA stand is out of the question. We are a part of the United Nations and follow the policies it determines. Once it adopts a certain line, the secretary general must do everything he can to bring about the implementation of the UN resolutions.

[Hess] Do you believe the United Nations and the Security Council are determined to implement Resolution 799?

[Turkmen] My impression from the secretary general's report is that he is determined; the report will be presented to the Council, and we will see what it will do. Such a wide-scale deportation is unprecedented. The Security Council has always expressed its concern over deportations, defining them as illegal. Resolution 799 is very clear, as is the secretary general's report, which demands that the Security Council carry out a specific act.

[Hess] What can it do?

[Turkmen] There is no point in making guesses at this stage. The secretary general has asked the Council to do all that it can to make sure that Resolution 799 is implemented.

[Hess] Are these not just words?

[Turkmen] I believe that Israel is showing some concern regarding steps the Council might take.

[Hess] What about the UNRWA-Israel relations? Has the situation improved, compared with the tension that existed during the first two years of the intifadah?

[Turkmen] We had difficulties, but also working relations. This is why I came here. We must work in cooperation in this area which is under Israeli occupation; whenever we want to build a school, we have to ask for Israel's permission. We have to be able to discuss demands or complaints.

[Hess] What complaints, for example?

[Turkmen] Mainly complaints by our teams. Soldiers have entered our schools and other buildings. There were cases in which our personnel was improperly treated.

[Hess] How are your complaints received?

[Turkmen] Sometimes well, sometimes not. Sometimes they discuss our plans, such as establishing a hospital in Gaza.

[Hess] Does Israel not benefit from the expansion of your health services?

[Turkmen] I hope it does, yet occasionally we have problems.

[Hess] A charge could be made against you that the expansion of your services allows Israel to continue ruling the Palestinians while shirking its responsibility for various aspects of their lives.

[Turkmen] I must say that since the new government came into power, there is more appreciation for our work. We did not have this before.

[Hess] Does this prove that things have changed?

[Turkmen] It is always more pleasant to hear appreciation than criticism.

[Hess] How do they express their appreciation?

[Turkmen] In words, but also by more positive responses, from the Civil Administration up to the government, to our requests when we need their approval for various projects.

[Hess] Have you reached some sort of arrangement regarding the operation of the officers in charge of refugee affairs? Is Israel no longer bothered by their presence?

[Turkmen] It is true that we are operating under certain restrictions and constraints, for example, regarding their entering camps, but their operations continues.

[Hess] What is their job?

[Turkmen] Helping deportees.

[Hess] Should they not be seen as a supervisory force, then?

[Turkmen] According to UN Resolution 681, the UN secretary general has asked that the Council be provided with four annual reports on the situation in the territories. Naturally, we have to provide all the facts known to us. We provide the information and the secretary uses it as he sees fit.

[Hess] But are the refugee officers not a new function?

[Turkmen] They have existed since 1988. With the intifadah, reality has changed, and there was a need to expand the teams. There are more clashes. There are more casualties, which called for the expansion of our medical facilities. We have started employing night shifts. This is general aid.

[Hess] And Israel viewed this as a violation of your mandate.

[Turkmen] We continue the operation of the refugee officers, again, under constraints. Also, there is no way we could meet every Palestinian expectation. An occupation is just that. You see that the secretary general is offering something else. We will see what will happen.

[Hess] Does he have any role for UNRWA?

[Turkmen] I do not know what are his intentions.

[Hess] UNRWA was set up as a temporary relief agency, and has become a permanent element in the lives of the refugees. Did leaning on its services not make them passive and lacking initiatives?

[Turkmen] We did not create the refugee camps and we are not managing them. We are not responsible for the camps, and it is not our duty to convince people to leave them. We are providing services the refugees would not be receiving otherwise, mainly in the fields of health and education—the basis for economic and social development. After the Gulf war, we started with initiatives to create sources of income, and we are trying to contribute to the expansion of the infrastructure—a hospital in Gaza, a research on environment problems in the Gaza Strip. The fact is that the Palestinians want us to go on working during the period of the interim arrangement self-rule.

[Hess] Does you presence not serve Israel as a safety valve?

[Turkmen] UNRWA was here even before 1967.

[Hess] I did not say that Israel created UNRWA, but whenever a curfew or closure is imposed, or when restriction are imposed on Palestinians' leaving for work in Israel, the papers say that people are not starving only thanks to the UNRWA food.

[Turkmen] What are you suggesting? That we let them starve? The catch is in the nature of occupation. Do you believe they would have been better off without UNRWA?

Further on Visit by PLO's 'Arafat to Amman

Meets With King Husayn

JN0102151893 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1400 GMT 1 Feb 93

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn and His Excellency Yasir 'Arafat, president of the state of Palestine, held a meeting this morning. They reviewed the special Jordanian-Palestinian relations in various areas. Talks also tackled developments in the region in general and the Palestinian deportees issue in particular, as well as a number of regional and international issues of mutual interest. The meeting was attended on the Jordanian side by His Excellency Prime Minister al-Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir and Royal Hashemite Court Chief Dr. Khalid al-Karaki. On the Palestinian side, the meeting was attended by Faruq Qaddumi, head of the PLO Political Department; 'Abdallah Hurani and Yasir 'Amr, members of the PLO Executive Committee; and al-Tayyib 'Abd-al-Rahim, the Palestinian ambassador in Amman.

The Palestinian president arrived in Amman this morning on a brief visit to the Kingdom.

In a statement to journalists after meeting with Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat, His Majesty King Husayn said: The meeting was a new opportunity for us to meet with president Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat]. In fact, he is in his homeland and among his kinfolk and brothers. He is also a dear brother. He gave us this chance to meet and had a frank and meaningful conversation to serve this nation and the heroic people, who are standing fast in the face of challenges and difficulties. His majesty added: Praise be to God, we always have had cordial ties and we are proud of our brothers. We beseech Almighty God to grant us success in serving our Arab nation and carrying out our full duty toward it. His majesty also said: We are for a peace that can be accepted by future generations and that can ensure the Palestinian people's legitimate rights on their national soil.

For his part, Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat praised His Majesty King Husayn, as well as his strong relations with his majesty. He said: His majesty honored me by this meeting, and we are always looking forward to his majesty serving the nation's causes, not only for the sake of Palestine and Jordan, but also for the sake of the Arab nation. He also greeted his majesty, and said: His majesty is an object of hope for achieving Arab solidarity and cooperation. He said: We carefully listened to His Majesty King Husayn during today's meeting. His majesty was full of love and amity, which we are used to seeing in his majesty.

Comments on Meeting With King

JN0102164293 Amman PETRA-JNA in Arabic 1510 GMT 1 Feb 93

[Excerpts] Amman, 1 Feb (PETRA)—His Majesty King Husayn and His Excellency Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat held a meeting this morning. [passage omitted] President 'Arafat stressed the importance of repatriating the deportees and of using a single standard in applying international legitimacy to the issues of the region. He referred to the existence of obstacles preventing a Security Council meeting at an appropriate time to discuss developments in the deportees' issue, as well as the possibility of imposing economic sanctions on Israel. These obstacles are represented in the U.S. control of the council, considering it is the only power in the world.

He also affirmed that the resumption of the peace negotiations with Israel is linked to the return of the deportees to their homes, as this is the Palestinian and Arab position referred to by the five cordon states and the Arab and Islamic meetings.

He added that the foreign ministers of the cordon states are in constant touch regarding the deportees issue and related developments.

Concerning his meeting with Israeli personalities, the latest of which was his meeting with an Israeli Labor Party Knesset member, he said: Since the Knesset issued its decision to lift the ban on Israelis' contacts with the PLO, I have received requests from approximately 300 Israeli personalities for meetings, and I will meet them when I have time. Most of these personalities are from Israeli peace movements.

Links Talks to Repatriation

JN0102185493 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1810 GMT 1 Feb 93

[Interview with PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat by political affairs correspondent Kassab Samawi in Amman on 1 February—recorded]

[Text] ['Arafat] Our basic goal is the repatriation of the deportees. This is number one. On this basis, we will move. Today we want to ask the world: Are there one of two kinds of legitimacy? Are there one or two standards for international legitimacy? We have to remember the content of UN Secretary General Butrus-Ghali's message. He said that the United Nations should not apply a double standard so as not to lose its credibility. There is Resolution 799, which should be implemented. We are not asking for the impossible. We want international legitimacy to be applied.

[Samawi] Your Excellency the president, if the situation remains as it is, will you go to another round of peace talks?

['Arafat] No. We have said that the resumption of the negotiations is linked to the repatriation of the deportees.

[Samawi] Is this a final Palestinian position?

['Arafat] Do not forget that it is an Arab position too.

[Samawi] Do you expect imminent Arab meetings to deal with this matter?

['Arafat] Do not forget that the Arab foreign ministers are in open session. For the first time since the Gulf war, the meeting was declared to be permanently open to discuss a certain issue, which is not a Palestinian, Jordanian, or Lebanese one, but an Arab one. It is the issue of deportation. It is not expulsion. It is a transfer. [end recording]

Leaves for Baghdad

JN0202070193 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 2 Feb 93 pp 1,5

[By JORDAN TIMES staff reporter Maryam M. Shahin]

[Excerpts] Amman—Palestinian leader Yasir 'Arafat headed for Baghdad Monday for talks with Iraqi President Saddam Husayn after briefly meeting and consulting with His Majesty King Husayn at the residence of the Palestinian ambassador to Jordan. [passage omitted]

Mr. 'Arafat told the press that King Husayn was the man to bring about Arab reconciliation. He said Monday's talks here centred on the fate of Palestinian expellees stranded in South Lebanon, international legitimacy, possible U.N. sactions on Israel and the continuation of the Arab-Israeli peace process.

Mr. 'Arafat said nothing about the purpose of his 48-hour visit to Baghdad. But senior Palestinian officials confirmed that Mr. 'Arafat was expected to hold talks with the Iraqi leadership on issues concerning regional stability, including Iraq's relations with the West and future of the Arab-Israeli peace talks.

Mr. 'Arafat was the first Arab leader to meet with the Iraqi president since a U.S.-led coalition launched a month-long war against Iraq in January 1991 to end Iraq's occupation of Kuwait.

Mr. 'Arafat is said to be carrying a message to President Saddam from "concerned Arab parties," according to a high-ranking Palestinian official who asked not to be named.

"Abu 'Ammar is carrying some suggestions—some advice—to the Iraqi leadership on how to proceed with the new U.S. administration and the U.N." said the official. [passage omitted]

As the first head of state to visit Iraq in the two years since the Gulf war ended, Mr. 'Arafat's visit is seen as welcome, say officials at the Iraqi embassy in Amman.

"He is going to talk about a whole host of issues, including the issue of the expellees in South Lebanon, the peace process and of course the return of Iraq into the international and Arab fold," said the senior PLO official who chose to remain anonymous. [passage omitted]

Mr. 'Arafat travelled by helicopter to the Jordanian-Iraqi border and hoped to find an Iraqi helicopter on the Iraqi side, said Ambassador 'Abd-al-Rahim.

"Despite the sanctions they should be able to send a helicopter," said the ambassador referring to the ban on Iraqi flights. "Otherwise he will travel 600 kilometres by car to Baghdad.

Husayn-'Arafat Meeting Viewed

JN0202113493 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 2 Feb 93 pp 1, 13

[Editorial: "The Husayn-'Arafat Meeting"]

[Excerpts] His Majesty King Husayn's meeting with his brother Yasir 'Arafat is another link in a long chain of constantly cordial and intimate Jordanian-Palestinian meetings. Such meetings are part of the deep, distinguished, historical relations between two fraternal peoples, who are united by blood, concerns, and joint destiny.

The meeting comes at a time when the region's issue and the peace process in particular are in dire need of profound assessment and revision, especially after a new democratic administration took office in Washington, and after the peace process entered one of its most critical impasses in the wake of Israel's decision to deport some 400 Palestinian citizens.

Undoubtedly, the Jordanian and Palestinian views regarding many aspects of the prevailing situation in the region and the progress of the peace process are so close that they can be considered identical. The two views stem from a joint appreciation of the importance of achieving a just, comprehensive peace that is based on the principles of international legitimacy—a peace that will be acceptable by future generations and meets the Palestinian people's national legitimate rights. [passage omitted]

Viewing His Majesty King Husayn's meeting with his brother President 'Arafat with such importance is dictated by the special, distinguished historical relationship. We hope that this meeting, just like earlier Jordanian-Palestinian summit meetings, will result in further consolidating relations between the two twin peoples. We also hope that this meeting will render further effectiveness to the continued Palestinian political struggle to wrest the legitimate Palestinian rights, restore holy places, and establish a just, comprehensive peace—a peace that is acceptable to future generations so that they can adhere to it and defend it.

Rabin Position Said Stronger if Deportees Return

JN3101084293 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 2100 GMT 30 Jan 93

[Text] In Amman, Faysal al-Husayni, head of the Palestinian Advisory Council, has stressed the need for the UN Security Council to adopt effective resolutions that impose sanctions on Israel for its refusal to implement Resolution 799 dealing with the return of the Palestinian deportees to their homeland.

In an interview with our correspondent for political affairs on arrival in Amman this evening, al-Husayni said: I believe we will seek the convening of a UN Security Council meeting despite the positions and demands asking us to delay this meeting.

[Begin recording] [al-Husayni] In fact, this decision should have been made regardless of the Israeli court's ruling. We all know that the Security Council is a higher authority than any local authority. We expected the Security Council to convene earlier, but since this meeting was delayed until this stage, we believe there is a need to convene it to adopt resolutions imposing sanctions on Israel for its refusal to implement Resolution 799.

[Correspondent Kassab Samawi] Although the deportations were an ugly action, some say that pressuring or forcing Israel to repatriate the deportees will weaken Yitzhaq Rabins' position, particularly concerning the peace process, and they are seeking a compromise. What is your comment on this proposal?

[Al-Husayni] I think that the opposite is true. Rabin launched his electoral campaign on the basis that he wants to advance the peace process. It is clear that nothing can remove the obstacles facing the peace process except returning the deportees. This will advance the peace process, and subsequently, enhance the position of anyone who supports peace. By this, Rabin will be fulfilling the promises he made to his people. In fact, what is required is the implementation of Resolution 799 rather than looking for ways out of this situation. Adopting a decisive resolution that rejects deportations and any such way of thinking is a principled position.

[Samawi] In light of all of this, do you intend to hold contacts with the U.S. Administration on this issue soon?

[Al-Husayni] Of course, there are preliminary contacts on holding meetings at a high political level in the future. These contacts are under way and are on their way to crystallization.

[Samawi] In light of your talks with the Belgian foreign minister, who is the forthcoming EC president, have you been promised support for the deportees cause at the Security Council?

[Al-Husayni] Yes, I think that finally the EC will adopt the strong Belgian position. The Belgian speech will be delivered in the name of Europe. [end recording]

U.S. 'Diplomatic Cover' of Israel Criticized

JN0102134393 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic
1 Feb 93 pp 1, 17

[Editorial: "The U.S. Diplomatic Cover for Israel's Arrogant Policy"]

[Text] It seems that today's UN Security Council session to review the Palestinian deportees' issue will be postponed indefinitely due to the continuing U.S. pressures on the Arab parties and even on the members of the Security Council itself.

It is no secret that such semi-explicit U.S. pressures were made to prevent the UN Security Council from reviewing the deportees' issue on the pretext of giving an opportunity to the Israeli High Court to handle the matter and save Yitzhaq Rabin from the impasse in which he had placed himself.

Some people may have found some excuses for and showed an understanding of the U.S. attempts to avoid any possible encounter in the Security Council. But now that the Israeli court has issued its ruling, the current U.S. stand—which is the same previous one—will not be accepted or understood even by those who had previously shared the United States its opinion.

Although the U.S. pressures, which are aimed at postponing a Security Council session, are accompanied by press reports on similar U.S. pressures on the Israeli Government to avoid embarrassing President Clinton's administration and forcing it to use the veto, we will continue to view any attempt to postpone a Security Council session as an obstruction of this Council's duties and as an impediment to the role assigned to the United Nations.

In view of this, we hope that the U.S. pressures, designed to obstruct the UN Security Council's role and absent it from the deportees' issue, will not be a moral reward for the Israeli arrogance and Zionist persistence in rejecting the UN Security Council resolutions. Such a reward will encourage Israel in the future to persist in humiliating the Security Council, insulting the United Nations, and obstructing the mechanisms of the Council that has played a major, effective role in implementing the principles of international legitimacy.

The current U.S. tactics inside and outside the Security Council are very risky as they entrench the de facto situation of some 400 Palestinian deportees, give Israel an exceptional right not enjoyed by any other state to reject the Security Council resolutions, and grant it as much time as it deems necessary to find appropriate outlets for its policies without appearing to be committed to implementing the Council's resolutions or submitting to the will of the international community, thanks to such continuing U.S. diplomatic cover.

Link Between Deportee Issue, Peace Process Noted

JN3001083993 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic
30 Jan 93 p 1

[Editorial: "The Deportee Case and the Peace Process"]

[Text] Now everyone can see that the UN Security Council is incapable of resolving the Palestinian deportee problem and helpless in forcing Israel to implement Resolution 799 calling for the immediate return of the deportees to their country.

It is also clear that Israel, thanks to its absolute U.S. and European bias, is now excluded from implementing international laws and resolutions, and can even stand above them. It is a known fact that since its establishment, Israel has not abided by any resolution adopted by international legitimacy. Therefore, its refusal to implement Resolution 799 did not come as a surprise to anyone.

Instead of acting to impose the necessary sanctions on Israel, the major powers with permanent membership in the UN Security Council began to search for a solution to get Israel out of its dilemma. Certain Arab parties have even started proposing plans to resolve the deportee question and thereby save both the Security Council and Israel from their dilemma. This is an Arab retreat directed against the case of the deportees.

It is worth noting that the deportees' insistence on returning to their country and rejection of any plan aimed at making them change their stand may foil those attempts to save Israel and the UN Security Council from their dilemma.

Israel may have been encouraged by the Clinton administration and some Western powers to continue with its stand. This fact confirms that the Clinton administration has started its era by showing disrespect for the resolutions of international legitimacy and absolute bias in favor of Israel. This fact also dictates that the Arab cordon states should adopt a united and decisive stand to exert necessary pressure on the UN Security Council to honor and abide by its own resolutions.

Those who try to separate between the peace process and the case of the Palestinian deportees are mistaken. The peace process was launched on the basis of the resolutions of international legitimacy, which Israel is refusing to abide by.

If the cordon states and the world community fail to force Israel into implementing Resolution 799 on the deportees, they will also fail to force Israel to implement Resolutions 242 and 338, on the basis of which the peace process was launched. Right?

Reports About U.S. Warning to Israel Welcomed

JN3101105893 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 31 Jan 93 pp 1, 21

[Editorial: "A U.S. Initiative Deserves To Be Encouraged"]

[Text] Successive press reports, quoting various sources, have said that new U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher has warned and urged Yitzhaq Rabin's government to find a quick solution that is in line with UN Security Council resolutions to the problem of the Palestinian deportees. If such reports turn out to be true, it will signal a U.S. position that deserves to be weclomed and appreciated.

The intransigent position of Rabin's government toward these deportees and its rude refusal to respond to the Security Council resolution and the two envoys of the UN secretary general were based on the major assumption that the United States would prevent the Security Council from carrying out its duties and adopting punitive resolutions, regardless of how intransigent Rabin's position or the extent of the Israeli Government's defiance of the international community's will.

Hence, this position, which many press sources attribute to the U.S. Department of State, represents a positive development and a very important qualitative change in the deportees' problem. The deportees have been exiled for nearly one and a half months but the Israeli Government has not adopted any position that would safeguard the peace process, or that would save the U.S. Administration the embarrassment of using the veto at the very beginning of its tenure at the White House.

Despite reservations concerning the truth of the reports about a U.S. position that pressures Israel, we will keep our eyes wide open to see how the new U.S. Administration will administer this crisis in the peace process that was caused by Yitzhaq Rabin, and on Bill Clinton's administration at the worst time for the new U.S. president.

We sincerely welcome any U.S. position that would restore some credibility to the Security Council resolutions, which Israel has continued to violate. We are aware that the motives of such a possible U.S. position are based on the continuous U.S. claim about preserving the UN prestige and defending Security Council resolutions. Undoubtedly, this requires putting an end to the policy of double standards, especially toward the Arab issues.

Only a clear and effective U.S. position can stop the ongoing deterioration of the UN reputation with the peoples of this region. It is also the most important factor to overcome the dilemma in the peace process, which was caused by Rabin himself. Above all, this position represents a desired beginning of a more balanced and objective U.S. policy, which is more harmonious with the U.S. ideals themselves, toward the central issue in the Middle East—that is, the Palestine question.

Buwayz: U.S. Efforts on Deportees 'Good Beginning'

NC0202141593 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1400 GMT 2 Feb 93

[Text] Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz has described American efforts to solve the deportees problem as a good beginning. He called on the United States and the world community to continue these efforts so that they will reflect positively on the peace process.

Interviewed on U.S. Pressure

PM0102150193 London AL-MAJALLAH in Arabic 27 Jan-2 Feb 93 p 14

[Interview with Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz by Ashraf Mustafa in Cairo; date not given]

[Text] [Mustafa] What are the most important Lebanese moves made recently to resolve the Palestinian deportees crisis?

[Buwayz] Lebanon has called on the United Nations and the Arab League to intervene to find an urgent solution to the deportees issue. It has called on the Security Council to convene to adopt effective resolutions against Israel and to force it to implement Security Council Resolution 799. It has also demanded that an emergency Arab summit be held to discuss this issue.

[Mustafa] Lebanon is accused of not allowing the delivery of humanitarian aid to the deportees. What are the justifications for this decision?

[Buwayz] The Lebanese position on the deportees is frank, very clear, and cannot be bargained over or drawn into the market of rumors, which are often untrue and inaccurate. Israel is trying to blackmail Lebanon, the Arab states, and world public opinion, even with regard to the procedural details concerning arrangements for the humanitarian mission's access to the area where the deportees are based. Our position was clear in confronting the unjust Israeli decision by all methods and means, in order to prevent and confront the "transfer" policy which the Rabin government has begun to implement in stages. Had it not been for the Lebanese position, we would have witnessed new waves of expulsion and deportation of Palestinians.

[Mustafa] Is there coordination with the PLO on the deportees?

[Buwayz] Lebanon's position centers on two points: defense of the Palestinian cause and Lebanon's sovereignty. The Lebanese position on the deportees was agreed with the PLO. And Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat spoke about it at the cordon states' recent meeting in Cairo.

[Mustafa] What is your opinion of the level of U.S. pressure on Israel to return the deportees?

[Buwayz] The pressure is there, but the effect of that pressure is questionable. To date we have seen no U.S. move to stick by those pledges.

Deportee's Spokesman Rejects Israeli Proposal

NC0202072193 Paris AFP in English 0701 GMT 2 Feb 93

[Text] Marj al-Zuhur, Feb 2 (AFP)—The some 400 Palestinian deportees in southern Lebanon Tuesday turned down Israel's proposal to allow 100 of them to return to the Israeli occupied territories, their spokesman said.

"We reject this agreement out of hand," 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Rantisi told AFP, pointing out that U.N. Resolution 799 demanded the "immediate return of all deportees without exception."

Monday, Israeli Premier Yitzhaq Rabin announced a package of U.S.-inspired measures aimed at ending the deportee crisis, starting with the return of a quarter of the 400 Palestinians from southern Lebanon.

The "compromise" was a deal under which Washington would block further sanctions against Israel for defying U.N. Security Council Resolution 799, which calls for the immediate return of all the expelled fundamentalists, Rabin said.

At the United Nations in New York, U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher said the concessions made further action by the Security Council on enforcing Resolution 799 "unnecessary."

However the Palestinian reaction was negative. Palestine Liberation Organisation chairman Yasir 'Arafat said that the PLO "insists on the application of Resolution 799."

PLO headquarters in Tunis announced that nothing short of the return of all the men would suffice the United Nations to punish Israel.

Some 415 male Palestinians, said to be members or sympathisers of the fundamentalist group Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement], were deported from the occupied territories on December 17 in retaliation for the killing of a border policeman that was claimed by the group.

Sees Plot Against Resolution

NC0202125093 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1130 GMT 2 Feb 93

[Text] The Palestinian deportees have rejected the Israeli Cabinet decision to allow 100 of them to return. At a meeting at their makeshift camp [in Marj al-Zuhur] at 0830 today, their spokesman Dr. 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Rantisi delivered a speech in which he said: The Israeli Government has concluded a compromise deal with the U.S. Government. The United States is one of the states that signed UN Security Council Resolution 799, so it knows the Israeli Cabinet decision conflicts with Resolution 799 calling for our immediate and safe return to our homeland.

Al-Rantisi said: The international community must act seriously. The ball is now in its court to implement scrupulously Resolution 799. We are not making extremist demands but we call for the implementation of UN resolutions. He added: God forbid, if we accept the Israeli Cabinet decision to allow 100 of us to return, we will destroy the future of 300 brothers who may be dispersed throughout the world.

Al-Rantisi concluded: I am confident that history will record your position as you confront the plot against Resolution 799.

Interviewed on Goals

NC3101100093 Tehran ETTELA'AT in Persian 24 Jan 93 p 12

["Exclusive" interview with 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Rantisi, spokesman for the deported Palestinians, by unidentified reporter in southern Lebanon, date not given]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] [ETTELA'AT] What groups are active in the occupied territories? Which one is the most popular?

[Al-Rantisi] The strongest organization in the occupied territories is Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] because it includes all the Palestinian organizations and formations. No group on its own can compete with Hamas, which has an extensive leadership in occupied Palestine.

[ETTELA'AT] What is the situation of 'Arafat's al-Fatah? How popular is it?

[Al-Rantisi] The figures we have show that 'Arafat's al-Fatah received 30 percent of the votes before the deportations; Hamas received 45 percent. Of course, these figures have changed since the deportations.

[ETTELA'AT] From among the combatant personalities abroad and inside the occupied territories, who is the most popular among the Palestinians?

[Al-Rantisi] The truth is that the personalities abroad are gradually losing popular support. The person whom most of the Palestinians inside the Palestine support is Shaykh Ahmad Yasin [the spiritual leader of Hamas]. [passage omitted]

[ETTELA'AT] Please tell us about some of Hamas' activities inside the occupied territories.

[Al-Rantisi] Hamas' main activities are military. You have certainly heard a great deal about these. The commando operations in the southern part of the occupied territories and the hijacking of an Israeli plane on a domestic flight were among Hamas' operations. As far as the intifadah is concerned, we can say that the Hamas youths are continuously resisting the Zionist enemy and this is what has attracted the people's attention. Hamas' other activities are educational and carried out by the Islamic Society and a number of other Islamic institutions that organize educational courses for the youth.

Hamas has also set up a blood bank. It is also involved in sports activities and space has been devoted to sports activities inside mosques where lessons on Islamic ethics are coupled with sports activities. Also, a philanthropic fund has been set up.

[ETTELA'AT] Are Hamas' activities directed from inside or from abroad?

[Al-Rantisi] Hamas is supported and directed 100 percent from inside; none of our activity is directed from abroad. [passage omitted]

[ETTELA'AT] What is the relationship between Hamas and the Islamic Jihad inside the occupied territories?

[Al-Rantisi] The truth is that inside Palestine there is no concordance of views. We are constantly doing our best, however, to prevent the emergence of a conflict and controversies between Hamas and the Islamic Jihad.

[ETTELA'AT] During our discussion with Ibrahim Ghawshah, Hamas spokesman in Jordan, he said he wished for unity with the Islamic Jihad because both groups agree on the need for an armed jihad. What is your opinion on the unity of these two groups?

[Al-Rantisi] These discussions are taking place outside the occupied territories, not inside. I believe that the Muslims should unite and join ranks. At any rate, we agree with these talks on the unity of the two groups.

[ETTELA'AT] What basic differences are there between Hamas and the Islamic Jihad inside the occupied territories?

[Al-Rantisi] I cannot answer this question. I think the Islamic Jihad should answer this question. Hamas is operating inside Palestine. Hamas is the continuation of the Muslim Brotherhood group. Therefore, I should say that Hamas has been active inside Palestine for about 50 years. Any new group should define the nature of its struggles to the people.

[ETTELA'AT] What is the opinion of the people inside Palestine on the Arabs' compromising talks with the Zionist regime?

[Al-Rantisi] From the very outset of the peace talks, Hamas told the Palestinians that these talks are not in the interests of the Palestinians, that they will not yield any results, and that retreat is one of the characteristics of the talks. At the beginning of the talks, the people did not believe what Hamas was saying; they thought the talks would lead to Israel's withdrawal from the occupied territories. Then the truth came to light and as Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, head of the head of the delegation to the talks, clearly said none of the Palestinians support the continuation of the talks.

[ETTELA'AT] How do you envisage the future of Palestine irrespective of the aspirations of Hamas or other groups? Will autonomy be granted or will a Palestinian government be formed in the future?!

[Al-Rantisi] The issue of autonomy was brought up by Israel. In other words, by implementing their plan the Palestinians would become a minority and Israel would take 90 percent of the occupied territories. This autonomy was tantamount to surrender and a big retreat from the occupied territories. This is a very difficult equation. The PLO knows that if autonomy is implemented, it would not achieve anything and that people like Faysal al-Husayni [a member of the Advisory Committee of the Palestinian delegation to the peace talks] and his comrades would seize affairs inside Palestine. The Palestinian people know that autonomy does not fulfill their wants. This is why it is difficult to say if autonomy will be implemented. Those who show interest in autonomy are those who want to take affairs into their hands and the PLO, which knows that autonomy will be detrimental for it. However, it also does not want the talks to halt. I know that autonomy will not be implemented soon anyway.

[ETTELA'AT] If the Palestinians gain autonomy, what impact will this have on the intifadah?

[Al-Rantisi] The intifadah has existed since the beginning of Islam. From its very outset, the intifadah cried out: God is great. Therefore, the intifadah disagrees with autonomy.

[ETTELA'AT] If the situation remains unchanged and Israel and Lebanon do not accept the deportees, are you ready to complete the period of your exile here?

[Al-Rantisi] As an alert and intellectual strata, we are aware of the dimensions of the plot that led to our deportation. We would rather die of cold than go to Lebanon.

[ETTELA'AT] Do you think that after a while the mass media will forget your problem?

[Al-Rantisi] That would be impossible; the situation here is so unique. We are neither in Palestine nor in Lebanon. We are facing a threat every moment. This is why this problem will not be forgotten. [passage omitted]

[ETTELA'AT] How do the people inside the occupied territories regard post-revolutionary Iran?

[Al-Rantisi] We think that the Islamic Revolution of Iran has had a positive impact on Arabic and Islamic countries and that it has awakened the people in these countries. We believe that this awakening led to an uprising affected by the impact of the Islamic Revolution.

[ETTELA'AT] In your opinion, what steps has Iran taken for the Palestinians and what steps could it have taken?

[Al-Rantisi] We ask Iran to continue to support the jihad of the people inside Palestine and to support Hamas in the struggle against the Zionist enemy.

[ETTELA'AT] Before the intifadah, there were anti-Zionist movements. What has made the intifadah different from the other movements?

[Al-Rantisi] The uniqueness of the intifadah is in that it is a movement started by the people, big and small, young and old. Before the intifadah, the struggle was individual. [passage omitted]

[ETTELA'AT] You have apparently held talks with PLO members inside Palestine. Hamas members have also met with 'Arafat abroad. What were the main points of these discussions?

[Al-Rantisi] Before the deportation, hands were at work in a bid to kindle the flames of a civil war inside Palestine. Each moment we faced the possibility that a war would start. Therefore, we tried—as much as we could—to prevent this war through talks. You must have heard that 'Arafat insulted Hamas and said that Hamas would be annihilated.

We feared that the Zionist enemy would exploit such remarks and a civil war would break out. This is why I personally requested to talk with 'Arafat in Tunis. But the Israelis did not give me an exit permit. In answer to correspondents who asked me why I wanted to go to Tunis, I told them that I wanted to prevent the outbreak of civil war on the West Bank and in the occupied Gaza Strip.

This was my objective before being deported. Since I was on the stop list since 1981, I was not allowed to go to Tunis.

The talks that took place with the PLO after I was deported only concerned the deportees' problems. In other words, Hamas held talks with the PLO only to discuss the problem of the deportees and how to help these people. The objective of the PLO in general and 'Arafat and the Fatah in particular was to urge Hamas to join them. This has not happened.

[ETTELA'AT] In conclusion, what message do you want to convey to the Iranian nation and officials?

[Al-Rantisi] I greet the devoted and combatant Iranian nation. I vividly recall the moments when the Islamic Revolution was taking place and the patience that the Iranian people showed. I recall how these people resisted bullets for the sake of Islam and for the establishment of an Islamic rule. On behalf of the Palestinian deportees and the Palestinian people, I greet the Iranian people and Iranian officials serving their country and who were able to transform a country that was without religious feelings, a supporter of the West, and a U.S. mercenary into a free country.

I hope Iran will continue to live under Islam and Islamic justice, values, and ethics. I have already sent a message to the Iranian leadership and people and I repeat my salutations to them. We know that Iran is carrying the banner of Islam and is striving for the repatriation of the deportees. With Iran so well aware of its duties, we are ashamed to tell it what to do.

[ETTELA'AT] Thank you.

Official Warns of 'Threat' Posed by Deportees

PM0202135993 Rome L'ESPRESSO in Italian 31 Jan 93 p 84

[Interview with Minister of State for Cultural and Higher Education Michel Iddih by "R.F."; place and date not given]

[Text] "Those 413 deportees are a threat to peace in the entire region. Perhaps they are a threat to world peace. And do you know why? Everywhere a tide of hostility is mounting against Israel, and sometimes it boils over into anti-Semitism. The gap between this and violence is narrow. And this area, as history tells us, is a powder keg. On the other hand, the Israelis are behaving like outlaws." Spoken by Michel Iddih, these words come as a surprise. Culture Minister in the Lebanese Government, he studied at length in France; Iddih is a gentle, refined man, and a descendant of one of Lebanon's oldest families. He is also the greatest historian of the tormented relations between Lebanon and Israel. He launched into his philippic in front of an extraordinary audience: a delegation from the commune of Martignano (1,900 inhabitants, in Lecce Province) who had trudged along the road, led by Mayor Luigi Sergio, to reach the Palestinian camp and deliver $10,000, collected by voluntary subscription, to the deportees.

[R.F.] What is Lebanon doing for the deportees?

[Iddih] Nothing. We let an aid convoy through to prevent them from dying. The rest is up to Israel.

[R.F.] Israel is proving more and more intransigent every day...

[Iddih] Of course, because this Yitzhaq Rabin is worse than his predecessor Shamir. At least Shamir used to speak out clearly, and he also said that he began peace negotiations without any will to continue them. Rabin is doing the same, but without saying so.

[R.F.] Is anti-Zionism growing in Lebanon?

[Iddih] Worse: Anti-Semitism is growing. And that is in a country where Jews have always had right of asylum, where they have been respected, and where they have merged with the community. I have many Jewish friends, despite what Israel has done to Lebanon; it has even stolen a piece of our territory. But how can you kill kids in the occupied territories just because they throw stones? And it has been going on since 1987. It is clear that in this situation anything can happen.

[R.F.] Will Lebanon be taking part in the next round of Arab-Israeli peace talks on 8 February in Washington?

[Iddih] Will it take place? At any rate, we shall be there. Israel is seeking every possible excuse to walk out of the negotiations and put the blame on the Arab countries.

[R.F.] What do you expect from Clinton?

[Iddih] We heard Bush talk about a "new world order" without ever understanding what it involved. The only thing we saw was that UN resolutions supported by the United States, for instance those against Iraq, were enforced within 24 hours. Those against Israel remained a dead letter. If Clinton wants to carry on that way...

Israelis Provide Petition Facilities for Deportees

NC2901132993 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1215 GMT 29 Jan 93

[Excerpts] Israeli military authorities have begun building installations in Mtullah on the Israeli-Lebanese border near Zummarayya crossing point. The installations will be used to facilitate meetings between the deportees and their lawyers and to make direct contact with the petitions committees possible. An officer in charge of petitions will take care of the correspondence between the emergency committees—which were formed by Israel's military command—and the lawyers for the deportees. [passage omitted]

For their part, Palestinian deportees refused to present petitions to Israeli authorities. Their spokesman, 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Rantisi, said that no one will go to Zummarayya and that this is a final and irrevocable decision. So far, not a single representative of the deportees has served a petition or appealed the ruling of the Israeli High Court.

Al-Hirawi Notes Cooperation Among Leaders

NC2901204593 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT 29 Jan 93

[Text] Editors doyen Milhim Karam cited the Republic's president as saying that things are proceeding toward a better future and solid accord in Lebanon, despite a few clouds.

President Ilyas al-Hirawi stressed that security must be established and that weapons should be collected from everyone. He believes that all measures adopted in this context were not meant for specific persons and do not reflect grudges. He explained that they were responsible measures adopted by the government in all areas. Karam said:

[Being Karam recording] His excellency believes that personal matters and private considerations should not preclude cooperation among the members of the administration. He stressed that a climate of tranquillity prevails among the president, the Chamber of Deputies speaker, and the prime minister and remarked that anything said to the contrary is an exaggeration.

The president also stressed that any difference of views cannot be that deep and that there can be no difference on fateful issues. The president knows that the Lebanese Constitution and the al-Ta'if agreement give the government the right to make decisions and to be responsible for them. He also knows the scope of the president's authority and acts within it. Anything to the contrary is a mere exaggeration that could harm everyone. The ruling leaders constitute cohesive unity which is responsible for providing prosperity, tranquillity, accord, safety, and security for the people. The officials are making efforts in this regard with full unity, contrary to all rumors. [end recording]

Birri Rejects Peace Talks Involvement in Interview

NC3001104193 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0915 GMT 30 Jan 93

[Excerpts] In an interview with our radio's "Saturday Salon" program, Chamber of Deputies Speaker Nabih Birri said that no government has the right to ask the Chamber of Deputies for extraordinary privileges. However, he said that he will personally ask for these privileges if he finds that the government is failing to do its duties properly. He said the Chamber is currently considering legislation in response to the government's action. [passage omitted]

Birri said that Lebanon should not have entered into the peace negotiations with Israel.

Notes Regional Turmoil

NC3001135093 Shanayh Voice of the Mountain in Arabic 1000 GMT 30 Jan 93

[Text] Chamber of Deputies Speaker Nabih Birri warned against becoming overly optimistic, saying that Lebanon may be out of intensive care, but it is still in the hospital. He added: We must not forget the turmoil going on around us in the region and the world. He noted that Lebanon is swimming against the current, moving toward unity.

Speaker Birri said he proposed that all administrative appointments be made at one time. He affirmed that harmony between the president and the prime minister has returned. He also said that there is no need to grant the government extraordinary powers, because legislative work in the Chamber of Deputies is proceeding well and the deputies are not empowered to concede their legislative authority.

Birri also said: We are pinning our hopes on the return of the displaced people. We support Minister Junblatt in his efforts; this is why we have expedited consideration on the Refugee Affairs Ministry bill.

Junblatt Discusses Confrontation With U.S., Israel

NC0102160993 Shanayh Voice of the Mountain in Arabic 1257 GMT 1 Feb 93

[Interview with Walid Junblatt, minister of state for refugee affairs and leader of the Progressive Socialist Party, by Khalid al-'Ali; place and date not given—recorded]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] [Al-'Ali] Let us discuss the hot topic of the deportees, which seems to be moving up a dead-end. Israel insists on the deportations and the United States obviously supports this, as has been seen in the past few days. The Lebanese and the Palestinians continue to reject the deportations. How can this problem be solved?

[Junblatt] Are the Arabs ready to confront America and Israel? We must remain firm on our principles but must also be ready to receive new waves of deportees. Lebanon, Syria, Jordan, and Egypt must coordinate their efforts to pressure the United States if they can.

I believe the Arab League secretary general's proposed visit to the deportees is unnecessary. I believe it violates Lebanon's position; it will mean a shift from the political to the humanitarian aspect of the problem. This is how I see it. We welcome 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, but not his visit to the deportees.

[Al-'Ali] You often talk about the American steamroller, but we do not often discuss how to confront it, if that is possible. We always blame the Americans for hindering every movement, but how can we stand up to this?

[Junblatt] I did not say the American steamroller is fate. It may be an absolute evil against the poor people, the Third World peoples, and the Arab and Islamic peoples, but it is not fate. The evidence is that the intifadah, despite the difficulties, goes on; the national and Islamic resistance continue; Lebanon, supported by Syria, continues to reject capitulatory negotiations with Israel. And we also have Iran, which is strategic and strong. We have the great Arab people, no matter what is said about them. The Arab people were suppressed sometimes, but they exist. There were tens, hundreds, and thousands of Arabs and Muslims who fought the Red Army in Afghanistan. Now they are fighting alongside their brothers in Bosnia-Hercegovina against the brutality of the Serbs. We have not lost hope. Important now are solidarity and awareness of where we are. [passage omitted]

[Al-'Ali] You have often warned that the region will be hit by storms. If we agree that weapons of mass destruction will not be used in any military wars in the region, what are the anti-Arab pressure tools you always talk about?

[Junblatt] Who said weapons of mass destruction will not be used? Israel possesses an immense nuclear arsenal that is kept updated by America and its allies. Israel has a nuclear bomb. When the Zionist leaders decide to use nuclear weapons, no one can stop them. We should not imagine that Israel is a peaceable state. It will use every means to preserve what it calls its security and existence. So we must bring more weapons to the region to achieve a balance of terror. This was President Hafiz al-Asad's theory, which I support. The Arabs must possess a nuclear bomb regardless of the cost. When a balance of terror is achieved, the enemy will think twice before acting. This is what the big powers did. It is perhaps ridiculous and weird logic that they built nuclear arsenals capable of destroying the earth a hundred times over, but, regrettably, this is the logic of politics. The Arabs must possess a nuclear bomb to be able to talk with Israel.

[Al-'Ali] It does not seem likely now that the Arabs will have a nuclear bomb.

[Junblatt] Nothing is impossible, nothing. This nation suffered one defeat after another, but it also experienced one victory after another. [passage omitted]

French Official Signs Agreements, Holds Talks

NC3001204893 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1630 GMT 30 Jan 93

[Text] Catherine Tasca, French minister-delegate for francophone affairs, ending the last day of her visit to Lebanon by signing three cooperation agreements with the Information Ministry. Tasca and Information Minister Michel Samahah exchanged messages on future audio and video cooperation.

The Information Ministry and French Channel International signed an agreement providing for Lebanese television to receive and rebroadcast French television programs via satellite. Another agreement was signed between the Information Ministry and France Inter Radio so that Radio Lebanon can receive and rebroadcast the French radio's programs. Under the agreement, France Inter Radio will provide technical assistance to refurbish Beirut radio's transmission equipment and studios.

Tasca visited President al-Hirawi this morning and met Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri at 1800 today. Information Minister Samahah and the French ambassador to Lebanon also attended the meeting. She met with Foreign Minister Buwayz and Education Minister Mikha'il al-Dahir this morning.

Ends Visit

NC3101221493 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1630 GMT 31 Jan 93

[Excerpt] Catherine Tasca, French minister-delegate for francophone affairs, left Beirut today for France via Larnaca, Cyprus, following a four-day visit to Lebanon at the invitation of Information Minister Michel Samahah. [passage omitted]

Army Commander Returns With Syrian Offer of Support

NC0102211393 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 2000 GMT 1 Feb 93

[Text] Army Commander General Emile Lahhud returned to Beirut tonight following a two-day visit to Damascus during which he met Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad and a number of Syrian officials.

Official sources say that during his meeting with the Lebanese Army commander, President al-Asad commended the current security and reconciliation efforts in Lebanon and expressed Syria's willingness to provide the Lebanese Army with all the support it needs to consolidate these efforts. Al-Asad told Lahhud that the Arab Syrian forces have instructions to cooperate closely with the Lebanese Army and consolidate the brotherliness existing between the two armies.

During the visit, the sources add, the Lebanese delegation sensed a desire on the part of the Syrian leadership to boost the abilities of the Lebanese Army by providing it with the equipment and expertise it needs to carry out its national duties.

Deputy Prime Minister Returns From Damascus

NC3001213093 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT 30 Jan 93

[Text] Deputy Prime Minister Michel al-Murr returned to Beirut this afternoon after a visit to Damascus, during which he met with Syrian Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam and Syrian Army Chief of Staff Major General Hikmat al-Shihabi.

Phalangist Radio Reports General Secretariat Comment

NC3001100293 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0615 GMT 30 Jan 93

[Text] The Phalangist Party General Secretariat issued a statement explaining that at last Monday's Political Bureau meeting, the party's secretary general outlined the conditions for the implementation of decision 6314. These are: Phalangist will is the source of all authority; consultation should be imperative; membership rolls should be prepared through consultations; a committee should be formed to receive objections to the rolls; and an appeals committee should be formed.

The statement adds that party member Joseph Tatunji proposed that the transitional executive committees assume management of administrative and organizational affairs in the regions and that the former regional party heads serve as deputies to the chairmen of these committees and devote attention to public affairs and political relations.

The statement says that the party leader accepted the proposals and emphasized his readiness to adopt all necessary steps in this respect. At this point, the statement adds, the Political Bureau members were surprised that Comrades Georgette Antun, Joe Sarkis, and Emile Farah left the meeting.

Opposition Wants Sa'adah Resignation

NC0102144493 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1245 GMT 1 Feb 93

[Text] The Phalangist opposition has announced the formation of a temporary salvation committee, the task of which is to extricate the Phalangist Party from its dangerous crisis in response to the call by most representatives of the Phalangist base, the party's legitimate representatives.

The committee includes Georgette Antun, Emile Farah, Joe Sarkis, Alfred Madi, George Kassab, 'Adil Saqr, Khalil Basil, Farid Habib, Ibrahim Haddad, and Samir Zaghrini.

In a statement issued at a news conference today, the opposition called on Dr. George Sa'adah to submit his resignation as party leader, making way for the return of the traditional Phalangist solidarity and allowing the party to assume its national role.

Political Bureau Suspends 10

NC0202075593 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0615 GMT 2 Feb 93

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] At its meeting yesterday led by Dr. George Sa'adah and in the absence of three members—Georgette Antun, Emile Farah, and Joe Sarkis—the Phalangist Party Political Bureau issued the following decisions:

1. To form transitional executive committees in al-Sayfi, the fifth and sixth districts, and the 'Akkar and Zahlah regions.

2. To form transitional committees in the United States, Canada, Australia, Europe, and Africa.

3. To issue a decision that the transitional executive committees should run administrative and organizational affairs in the regions and areas according to party regulations. [passage omitted]

4. To form a special honorary council composed of members of the political bureau, advisory council, and legal affairs department.

5. To refer the 10 comrades—Georgette Antun, Emile Farah, Joe Sarkis, Alfred Madi, George Kassab, 'Adil Saqr, Khalil Basil, Farid Habib, Ibrahim Haddad, and Samir Zaghrini—to the special honorary council and suspend their membership pending a judgment against them within no more than 15 days.

Phalangist Party leader George Sa'adah said some former Phalangist officials' action forms a basic step toward their separation from the Phalangist Party. He said: We aim to have a strong party even if I am not its leader. What we have done aims to strengthen democracy. He asked the separatists: If Dr. Samir Ja'ja' were the party leader, could there have been talk about democracy and the party's national role? He added: Some have kept leveling accusations and descriptions that do not exist in the Phalangist Party's dictionary against the party's leadership and decisionmaking body. We have endured what no human being can endure. [passage omitted]

Ex-President on Foreign, Domestic Issues

PM0102112193 London AL-HAWADITH in Arabic 29 Jan 93 pp 20-21

[Interview with former President Amin al-Jumayyil by Diana Tarbiyah in Paris; date not given]

[Excerpts] [Tarbiyah] Lebanon has formed a parliamentary committee to investigate arms deals concluded in your era. What is the full story of these deals?

[Al-Jumayyil] That question should de addressed to the authority concerned, that is the Defense Ministry or the Finance Ministry. The president of the republic has no powers to examine such matters, as he is in charge of the state's higher policy and does not get involved in the details.

[Tarbiyah] The committee has named people who are to be investigated. Are you prepared to appear before this committee if it summons or comes to you?

[Al-Jumayyil] No information is available to me in this connection so far. We will talk about it when it happens. Why should we anticipate events?

[Tarbiyah] You went to Lebanon and left quickly. What exactly happened?

[Al-Jumayyil] It was my duty to participate with my comrades and friends in crystallizing a sound national position regarding recent parliamentary elections. And I believe that—in cooperation with numerous partisan and national leaders—I succeeded in my mission. [passage omitted]

[Tarbiyah] Do you have contacts with the opposition?

[Al-Jumayyil] There are extensive contacts with oppositionists outside and inside the country, direct and indirect contacts almost weekly. They include meetings and messages for the sake of coordination among ourselves.

[Tarbiyah] There is much talk about the possibility of holding a Christian meeting in the French capital in February. What is the aim of the meeting?

[Al-Jumayyil] The principle has not yet been decided, so it is too soon for us to go into the details of the agenda. However, I have long sought to secure real, methodical, joint reconciliation—which requires work to unite the Lebanese family, beginning with the Christian family, provided that we put our past sensitivities and differences aside and adopt—all of us—a unified position toward Lebanon and the Lebanese cause.

On that basis we made several contacts, in which expatriate leaders participated, to arrange a national meeting to crystallize a common denominator. [passage omitted]

[Tarbiyah] Where does the Phalangist Party fit in the Lebanese political map?

[Al-Jumayyil] For 50 years the Phalangist Party was an integral part of the major national institutions and one of the very influential institutions in the Lebanese structure and the homeland's march. And, despite all criticisms, a calm review will reveal that the Phalangist Party was the moderator, in addition to its practical role on the ground. It was always the link. Take, for example, the 1985 crisis. Pierre al-Jumayyil was a principal element in the reconciliation. The dialogue with the Palestinians was constructive and fruitful, in addition to the dialogue with the Syrians. The Phalangist Party was in the forefront of the interlocutors, working sincerely and effectively. Its sole aim was always the country's interests and the interests of Lebanese-Lebanese relations and Lebanese-Arab relations, beginning with Lebanese-Syrian relations.

But today it saddens me that its role has become marginal. I do not hold the present leadership alone responsible for this, but also the party's militarization, the uprisings, coups, and domination. All this has considerably affected its national course. Its line is different from the traditional Phalangist line drawn up by its founder, Shaykh Pierre al-Jumayyil.

Today it is going through terrible labor pains, and I fear its fragmentation once again. I am making numerous contacts with all parties: with Dr. Ja'ja', Dr. Sa'adah, Dr. Karamah, and the shura committee, by telephone or letter. My aim is for us to reunite the party as a first step in preparation for reuniting the Christians and then all Lebanon. [passage omitted]

But if positions continue to be dictated by interests and sensitivities, I refuse to engage in such a conflict. I fear that intelligence elements with suspicious objectives will infiltrate the party's organs to obstruct the Phalangist Party's role, and some may work to put the party out of its misery by destroying it. I say that in full awareness of what I am saying.

[Tarbiyah] Is the party really in an oppositionist position?

[Al-Jumayyil] Frankly, I do not know, and it seems that the party is still looking for the path and the position.

[Tarbiyah] What are the reasons for some party leaders' contacts with Syria?

[Al-Jumayyil] Contacts like these are a necessity. But they should proceed from national ideas and crystallize an integrated plan for Lebanon's salvation, not to be limited to tactical or secondary matters.

We have several files in operation. For example, the Lebanese system file has not been opened seriously yet. If the Phalangist Party had been united, it would have been able to hold a serious dialogue over the system and the Constitution and the loopholes in the current system. This system is not the Bible or the Koran. Even those who drew it up said that it was a temporary formula to stop the shooting.

As for foreign regional relations, we have many issues which should be discussed, like the file on relations with Israel, for example. It should be discussed seriously. It is stupid to say that our only problem with Israel is the implementation of Resolution 425, because there are the water, the refugees, the borders...

At the Syrian level a dialogue can be opened. I always say that we want peace for Lebanon with Syria's help, but no one accepts capitulation. I dealt with Syria more than anyone else. Everyone knows that the Lebanese forces' uprising against Amin al-Jumayyil was launched on the pretext that I deal with Syria more than necessary. I deal with it with dignity, not for the sake of personal or secondary interests, but for the sake of real salvation. [passage omitted]

[Tarbiyah] What is your opinion of the hopes that the Lebanese are pinning on the new government, and are they justified?

[Al-Jumayyil] The new government is a Syrian Trojan horse, because it is a camouflage government, a camouflage for the present situation imposed on us and the heresies taking place like the rigged elections, the Chamber of Deputies representing only 13 percent of the people, the slogans, and the overstepping of the al-Ta'if agreement with regard to redeployment.

It seems to us that this government has been set up for the purpose of patching up and passing the time, not tackling the main matters.

When the war began in 1975 the exchange rate was one dollar to 2.5 Lebanese pounds. Despite this we failed to prevent the war, because the economy follows politics, not vice versa.

At the economic and social level we are building on sand as long as the main issues are not among the present government's interests and as long as it is not entitled to deal with them; and therein lies the danger.

So the present government is a camouflage government working to conceal the fragmentation of national institutions and the breakup of the organs, thus giving Israel the excuse—as a result of this situation—to tighten its grip on Lebanon.

[Tarbiyah] You are in constant contact with Washington. What is the truth about Clinton's position on Lebanon?

[Al-Jumayyil] I will answer that question after I return from Washington. I will be holding several meetings there with U.S. Administration figures who are working to bring views closer between me and President Clinton. [passage omitted]

Israeli Helicopters Said Firing Rockets at Tuffah

TA2901174593 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1700 GMT 29 Jan 93

[Text] This afternoon, an IDF [Israel Defense Forces] soldier sustained medium injuries in the area of Sujud in the security zone in south Lebanon. Our correspondent Karmela Menashe reports that mortar shells were fired at IDF troops patrolling the eastern sector early this afternoon. A helicopter evacuated the moderately wounded IDF soldier to a hospital. IDF and SLA [South Lebanese Army] forces returned heavy artillery fire. Our correspondent notes that the attack took place in the location where an SLA position was attacked and two SLA soldiers were killed yesterday.

Defense sources report in Tyre that Israeli combat helicopters fired rockets and guns at targets in the Tuffah area southeast of Sidon. According to the report, IDF tanks and guns also shelled targets in that area.

Grad Rockets Hit Marj'uyun; No Casualties Reported

NC3001074393 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0545 GMT 30 Jan 93

[Text] Tension is mounting in various parts of southern Lebanon after the Israeli shelling of villages in Iqlim al-Tuffah, al-Nabatiyah, the al-Litani River basin, the two towns of Zawtar al- Sharqiyah and Zawtar al-Gharbiyah, and Kafr Tibnit.

Hizballah shelled a position manned jointly by the South Lebanese Army and the Israeli Army in Sujud. Voice of the South radio reported that an Israeli soldier was injured. Two other armed men were injured from the counter-shelling of the region of 'Arab Salim.

Last night AFP, citing the Voice of the South, reported that a number of Grad rockets fell in the border region in southern Lebanon and targetted the area of Marj 'Uyun. No casualties were reported.

Hizballah Radio on Military Activities in South

NC3001084693 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0630 GMT 30 Jan 93

[Text] Tension continues in areas alongside the occupied strip after a long day of Israeli attacks that targeted defenseless areas and villages. The most recent of these attacks took place at around 2200 last night, when Israeli forces shelled the al-Litani River basin and the outskirts of Zawtar al-Sharqiyah and al-Gharbiyah. The villages of Jba', 'Ayn Bu Siwar, Mlita, Tayr Harfa, Kafra, Yatar, and Jabal Safi were targeted by similar Israeli shelling from occupation positions. In addition, enemy helicopters raided valleys in the south using rockets and automatic rifles.

The Islamic Resistance confronted all Zionist aggressions and thwarted an advance by a joint Zionist-Lahd force of 60 soldiers in the direction of al-Rahrah area near Zibqin. A violent battle ensued during which the infiltrating force incurred significant losses.

The Islamic Resistance also announced that one of its groups ambushed an Israeli patrol inside the occupied strip near al-Jurmuq in the central sector and injured two soldiers after opening machine-gun and rocket fire on the patrol. The two casualities were taken away by a Zionist helicopter.

In addition, the enemy radio noted that a third Zionist soldier was injured yesterday in the Islamic Resistance's shelling of Sujud.

Within the same framework, the faithful resistance issued a statement announcing that one of its groups detonated numerous explosive devices when a patrol of the enemy and their agents went by on the Shihin road inside the occupied strip. All members of the patrol were either killed or injured. After that, the Zionist enemy sent mechanized reinforcements to the operations area and indiscriminately shelled surrounding areas with all types of artillery and machine guns.

The indiscriminate shelling targeted the areas of Majdal Zun, Zibqin, and Yatar. Israeli military helicopters overflew the area.

Israeli Bombardment in Bra'shit; State of Alert

NC0202103893 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1024 GMT 2 Feb 93

[Text] Here is a report straight from the newsdesk: Our correspondent in the south has just reported that the township of Bra'shit in the central sector came under bombardment from Israeli positions on the Muhaybibi hills. The bombardment was followed by machine-gun fire and later extended to cover the township of Haddathah. An Israeli vehicle advanced to the quarries area, which overlooks Kafr Rumman, and combed Kafr Rumman, Kafr Tibnit, and al-Nabatiyah al-Fawqa.

Our correspondent also reports a state of alert among Israeli troops and the South Lebanese Army.

Media Comment on U.S., Israeli Stands on Deportees

UN Resolutions Viewed

JN0102071193 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0550 GMT 1 Feb 93

[Press review]

[Text] AL-BA'TH today comments on the Security Council's role and U.S. practices to invalidate any resolution adopted by the Council against Israel, which is constantly violating the resolutions of international legitimacy.

The paper says: The world is now certain that the U.S. Administration wants the Security Council under its control to do what it wants in accordance with its policies.

If this important international organization tries to adopt the correct and desired resolution, the United States quickly threatens to use its veto right to invalidate any resolution that might be adopted to entrench international legitimacy desired by the entire international community.

AL-BA'TH adds: News agencies have recently been talking about an expected measure by the Security Council to force Israel to implement Resolution 799 on returning the Palestinian deportees to their homeland. If Israel does not comply, then binding sanctions will be adopted against it, as happened in previous cases.

Once this news spread, Washington hastened to utter threats about what would happen if such a resolution was adopted, despite the fact that, under the current international situation, Washington is supposed to carry out its role toward the question of the deportees, if it really wants to see the world enjoy peace and security. This is especially so, since the United States is the party that launched the Middle East peace initiative.

AL-BA'TH notes Rabin's affirmation yesterday that the Security Council will not adopt sanctions against Israel. This affirmation came after the Israeli prime minister's meeting with the U.S. ambassador in Tel Aviv. This proves that Israel has received official U.S. confirmation that the United States will use the available means to prevent the Security Council from discharging its duties.

AL-BA'TH concludes: Such policies cannot possibly serve the peace process, which started in Madrid in 1991.

TISHRIN also comments on the Israeli Government's refusal to implement Resolution 799, stipulating returning the Palestinian deportees to their homeland.

The paper says: The question of the Palestinian deportees has rapidly picked up pace over the past two days because of the Rabin government's refusal to implement the international resolution, given that this refusal has negative, harmful, and serious effects on international legitimacy, the peace process, and the entire situation in the region.

TISHRIN adds that Israeli maneuvers can no longer fool anyone, since they are no different in their aims, methods, and pretexts from the already established facts about Israel's policy—a policy denounced and condemned in form and content. The whole world is angered and enraged by Israel, because it alone is responsible for the deteriorating situation in the region, and it alone is responsible for the collapse of the peace process. Also, Israel is the only source of tension and poses a permanent threat to world peace and security, as well as to Middle East security and stability.

TISHRIN goes on to say that the Security Council's resolution, like all resolutions of international legitimacy, is indivisible. Israel, in one aspect of its deceptive, maneuvering policy, proposes returning a third of the deportees. By doing so, Israel exposes itself and admits that it has made a mistake, but will not correct it all at once. Israel knows quite well that it does not stand to reason to divide international legitimacy or tailor its resolutions to Israel's size.

TISHRIN concludes: Resolution 799 was issued only to stop Israel's terroristic, suppressive practices, including deportation and expulsion. All that the Security Council has to do is respect its resolution as a whole. This is a responsibility that Israel should comply with. The Security Council is equally asked to champion its resolution to save its prestige and confirm its credibility, by taking measures immediately to ensure the implementation of Resolution 799. This includes applying the provisions of Chapter 7 of the UN Charter against Israel.

'Deterring Punishments' Urged

JN3001165493 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1230 GMT 30 Jan 93

[Station commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen: As contacts intensify to hold a Security Council meeting to discuss the Palestinian deportees issue and inflict deterring punishments on Israel, the Rabin government maneuvers on more than one level. It instructed the Jewish lobby to increase its pressure on the U.S. Administration which wants to prevent a Security Council meeting, it came to the world with a new lie represented in the appeals committees, and it sent one of its officers to the Zummarayya crossing for this purpose as if the military appeals committees would achieve what the Israeli High Court had failed to achieve; namely, carrying out justice and ending the grievances of hundreds of Arab citizens, who are suffering from hunger, thirst, cold, and death in occupied southern Lebanon.

The Rabin government spread news about its sending humanitarian aid to the victims of the civil war in the African country of Liberia, while it prevented the dispatch of food and medical supplies to the Palestinian deportees for over six weeks, barred the International Committee of the Red Cross from carrying out its humanitarian duty, and imposed a siege on the area. Rabin himself also announced that he was not concerned about the fate of the deportees and that he did not feel any pity for them. The deportees countered Israel's new lie with strong, proper language by refusing to meet the Israeli officer or submit petitions and holding the Security Council responsible for implementing Resolution 799 and saving them from sure death.

It is obvious that the deportees' determination to stay where they are, deprived of the simplest necessities of life, has become a real nightmare for many Western countries known for their bias toward Israel. These countries' leaders made themselves custodians of peoples' resources and human rights everywhere under the banner of the new world order, spread their absolute hegemony over the Security Council, and exercised a policy of interference in the name of international law and UN resolutions.

However, facing an unquestionable situation represented by Israel's refusal to implement Security Council Resolution 799, which was made unanimously despite all efforts and calls and despite sending two envoys to Tel Aviv, these leaders have only two options: to impose sanctions on Israel and apply international law and the Geneva agreements or to paralyze the Security Council's effectiveness, as has been the case for the past 40 years, and entrenching the policy of double standards, which will certainly lead to the collapse of the West's credibility and the world nations' confidence in the Security Council and to encouraging other governments and regimes to commit aggression and exercise the law of the jungle.

What is more serious is that the Middle East peace process, which was launched after strenuous efforts, will also collapse. If Israel refuses to take back hundreds of Palestinian deportees, how can it agree to return millions of refugees, evictees, and displaced people to their homes, and how can it implement Security Council Resolutions 242, 338, and 425, which stipulate its forces' withdrawal from the occupied territories in return for peace?

Israel took part in the peace process not because it loves or seeks peace, but because it was compelled to do that to avert condemnation by world public opinion. Israel's rulers have been crying for more than 40 years, demanding peace and holding the Arabs responsible for achieving no just solution in the Middle East. As the Arabs responded to the U.S.-Russian peace efforts, Israel's rulers were unable to turn their backs on it. However, they pursued the policy of frustration, the policy of placing obstacles, and the policy of directing successive stabs to the peace process in the hope that the Arabs will withdraw and be held responsible.

The measure to expel the Palestinians falls within the framework of that policy. How can some hundreds of scholars, including ill, elderly, and handicapped men, pose a danger to the Israeli occupation? If Israel's allegations had been right, the Palestinian intifadah would have retreated. What we see is the reverse. Clashes increased in the occupied territories, more people were either killed or wounded, and the Rabin government deployed more forces armed to the teeth in West Bank and Gaza villages and cities.

Hence, we say that confronting the Israeli rebellion with the proper language constitutes a victory for peace efforts and momentum for the peace process. The Security Council's determination to exercise its full authority and apply its resolution on repatriating the deportees are conditions for any just peaceful settlement in the Middle East. Peace requires that the Security Council implement its resolutions. There will not be peace at all without implementing these resolutions, regaining all the occupied Arab territories, and establishing Palestinian rights.

Sources Say U.S. Urged To Intervene With Israel

PM2901135793 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 28 Jan 93 p 5

[Salwa al-Ustuwani report: "Damascus Urges Clinton Administration To Put Pressure on Israel"]

[Text] Damascus—Authoritative Syrian sources have urged the U.S. Administration to intervene directly and clearly with Israel to prevent it from making distorted and wrong interpretations of international resolutions, especially Resolutions 242 and 338 which emphasize the impermissibility of seizing others' territory by force.

The sources told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that the meanings of these resolutions are clear to everyone, namely the complete withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories, and that no real solution can be achieved without them.

The authoritative Syrian sources added that the region in this new world must enjoy stability, security, and peace—which will not be achieved unless Israel responds to the logic of the talks in the right way. The United States should persuade Israel to backtrack on its rigid positions and accept peace requirements and terms in accordance with the UN resolutions.

Yemeni Foreign Ministry Official Arrives for Talks

JN3101120493 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1115 GMT 31 Jan 93

[Text] Dr. 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Dali, Yemeni minister of state for foreign affairs, arrived in Damascus this morning on a three-day visit to the Syrian Arab Republic.

On arrival at Damascus International Airport, he was received by Nasir Qaddur, minister of state for foreign affairs.

Dr. al-Dali said in a statement that he is carrying a written message to President Hafiz al-Asad from his brother Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, chairman of the Yemeni Presidential Council. He added that he will hold talks with the Syrian officials on ways of bolstering bilateral relations.

Received by al-Asad

JN3101180293 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1615 GMT 31 Jan 93

[Text] President Hafiz al-Asad received Dr. 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Dali, Yemeni minister of state for foreign affairs, at 1300 today. The meeting was attended by Nasir Qaddur, minister of state for foreign affairs, and Muhammad 'Abduh al-Shatfah, Yemeni ambassador in Damascus.

Dr. al-Dali conveyed to the president a message from Yemeni President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih. The president asked al-Dali to convey a message in reply. The talks dealt with Arab and regional developments as well as bilateral cooperation and issues of mutual interest.

Meets al-Shar'

JN0102143393 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1215 GMT 1 Feb 93

[Text] Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' received 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Dali, Yemeni minister of state for foreign affairs, today. Taha al-Khayrat, head of the Foreign Ministry's Arab Homeland Department, and the Yemeni ambassador in Damascus attended the meeting.

Discussion dealt with the regional situation, developments in the Arab arena, the situation in the Horn of Africa, and relations between the two fraternal countries, Syria and Yemen, and means to develop these relations.

Ends Visit

JN0202132893 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1015 GMT 2 Feb 93

[Text] Dr. 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Dali, the Republic of Yemen's minister of state for foreign affairs, left Damascus this morning following a three-day visit to the Syrian Arab Republic.

He was seen off by Nasir Qaddur, minister of state for foreign affairs, senior Foreign Ministry officials, and the Yemeni ambassador in Damascus.

Lebanese Army Commander Meets With Officials

Talks With Talas

JN3101202093 Damascus Syrian Arab Television Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 31 Jan 93

[Excerpts] Lieutenant General Mustafa Talas, deputy commander in chief of the Army and the Armed Forces, deputy prime minister, and defense minister, received in his office at 1930 today Lebanese Army Commander General Emil Lahhud and his accompanying delegation. The meeting was attended by Lieutenant General Hikmat al-Shihabi, chief of the General Staff of the Army and the Armed Forces. The talks dealt with cooperation between the two fraternal armies and means of promoting it in the interest of the two sisterly countries.

Lt. Gen. Hikmat al-Shihabi, chief of the General Staff of the Army and the Armed Forces, received Gen. Emil Lahhud and his accompanying delegation in his office at 1800 today.

Gen. Emil Lahhud, Lebanese Army commander, arrived in Damascus this morning. [passage omitted]

At noon, the Lebanese Army commander, accompanied by Lt. Gen. 'Ali Aslan, visited one of our combat formations where he was received by the formation's commander and senior officers. The guest and his delegation listened to a detailed briefing on the formation's daily training exercises. He was also acquainted with the progress of work at one of the formation's firing fields.

Received by al-Asad

JN0102160093 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1505 GMT 1 Feb 93

[Text] Damascus, 1 Feb (SANA)—President Hafiz al-Asad received Lebanese Army commander General Emil Lahhud at 1215 today.

Lieutenant General Hikmat al-Shihabi, chief of the General Staff of the Army and the Armed Forces, attended the meeting.

During the meeting, Gen. Lahhud briefed the president on the results of his talks in Damascus and on aspects of military cooperation between the two fraternal countries.

Ends Visit

JN0102192493 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1735 GMT 1 Feb 93

[Text] Damascus, 1 Feb (SANA)—Lieutenant General Hikmat al-Shihabi, chief of the General Staff of the Army and the Armed Forces, received in his office this morning Lebanese Army Commander General Emil Lahhud and his accompanying delegation.

Deputy Chief of Staff Lieutenant General 'Ali Aslan attended the meeting.

During the meeting, the two sides continued yesterday's talks on cooperation relations between the Lebanese and Syrian armies and means of promoting them in the interest of both fraternal armies.

At the end of the meeting, Lt. Gen. Hikmat al-Shihabi and Gen. Emil Lahhud exchanged souvenirs.

Gen. Emil Lahhud and the delegation accompanying him left Damascus today for Beirut at the end of a two-day visit.

Afghanistan

Army Attacks on Golboddin Positions To Continue

LD0102110993 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Dari 0330 GMT 1 Feb 93

[Text] Kabul city was quiet yesterday, and citizens were able to carry out their daily routine with more confidence.

An authoritative source in the Ministry of Defense reported to the Military Section of BAKHTAR INFORMATION AGENCY that the forces of the Islamic Army of Afghanistan subjected Golboddin's rebellious division to heavy air and artillery attacks in the direction of south and in the regions of Bagrami. Notable victories were achieved in some parts of Bagrami. The air and artillery attacks by the Islamic Army against the missile positions of Golboddin's rebels will continue until the complete elimination of their missile positions.

The source added that with complete elimination of Golboddin's missile positions the city will be completely safe and our compatriots will be able to resume their tranquil life.

A military correspondent from BAKHTAR INFORMATION AGENCY quoting security sources reports that, as a result of the firing of four SAKR type missiles, which hit the second and fourth wards, one of our Muslim compatriots was martyred and another injured.

Tehran Radio Gives Update on Fighting in Kabul

LD3101120993 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 31 Jan 93

[Text] Kabul has again been the scene of fighting between government forces and [Golboddin] Hekmatyar's Hezb-e Eslami forces today. Gudarzi, our correspondent in Kabul, reports that the two sides have shelled each other's positions using heavy weapons. Kabul City was also hit by a number of rockets. Government aircraft bombed Hezb-e Eslami positions yesterday and today.

According to this report, the Libyan Government has closed its embassy in Afghanistan and the ambassador of that country has left Kabul.

Meanwhile the leader of Afghan Hezb-e Eslami, Golboddin Hekmatyar, declared in an interview with the IRIB correspondent that he is ready to accept a cease-fire only within a general framework for resolving the Afghan issue. This agreement must include the formation of a new interim government for six months, holding a general election at the end of that period, and the establishment of the Afghan people's chosen government in Afghanistan.

On the current fighting in Kabul, Mr. Hekmatyar said: This war has been imposed on us by the forces of the Islamic Revolutionary Movement, Mowlavi Mohammad Nabi Mohahhamadi, and Sayyaf's alliance. The responsibility for its continuation rests with its instigators. He added that during the fighting, Hezb-e Eslami forces have taken new districts, such as Botkhak and Chehelsotun, including the western part of Chehelsotun up to the industrial facility—which was in the hands of the government forces before—and captured 150 of the Defense Ministry forces.

The leader of the Hezb-e Eslami emphasized: As long as the Council of Observers does not realize that it will not be able to continue to rule through the use of force, efforts for the peaceful resolution of the problem will be ineffective.

He expressed doubt about the convening of a conferece of the leaders [of the Afghan groups] in Riyadh, and said: They have made the convening of that session conditional on a cease-fire. We believe a cease-fire to be part of a general agreement and doubt the possibility of holding the session.

According to our correspondent's report, while rejecting an alliance on an ethnic and racial basis, the leader of the Afghan Hezb-e Eslami emphasized common ideological viewpoints as a proper basis for an alliance.

Finally he declared: If the Council of Observers removes its weapons from the residential areas of Kabul, Hezb-e Eslami guarantees to completely stop its attacks against Kabul from the city suburbs.

Rocket Hits Embassy

LD0202121193 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 2 Feb 93

[Text] The exchange of heavy artillery fire in Kabul between government forces and those of the Islamic Party of Afghanistan continued today. A Voice and Vision correspondent emphasizes in his report that in spite of the continuation of clashes between these groups, the military positions of the two sides have not changed.

According to the report, following an intensification of the exchange of fire between the hostile forces in Afghanistan's capital city, a rocket hit the premises of the Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Kabul at noon today but did not cause any casualties. Where the rocket came from is not yet known.

Our embassy in Kabul has already been hit four times by rocket fire. A large number of embassies and UN representative offices have been the targets of rocket fire.

An official from the Islamic National Movement of northern Afghanistan, led by General Dostam, announced that the movement is maintaining its neutral stance in the current fighting between the government forces and those of Hekmatyar's Islamic Party. The director of the cultural office of the Islamic National Movement of northern Afghanistan, in an interview with our reporter in Kabul, emphasized: The forces under the command of General Dostam have, up to now, maintained their neutral stance. He refrained from commenting on remarks made by the Afghan Defense Ministry spokesman that General Dostam's forces had joined the government in the fighting against the Islamic Party.

Our correspondent in Kabul has also reported that forces of the Supervisory Council [Showra-e Nezar] and the Islamic Unity Party of Afghanistan exchanged fire for several hours at Bagh-Bala pass, in western Kabul, last night for the seventh time.

According to the report, the fighting has spread to two other areas in western Kabul. The Islamic Unity Party has blamed the Supervisory Council's forces for starting the attack, but an official from the Afghan Defense Ministry rejected this statement.

Government Helicopter Said Downed Near Bagram

LD0202131093 (Clandestine) Radio Message of Freedom in Pashto to Afghanistan 0905 GMT 2 Feb 93

[Text] A helicopter belonging to the coalition forces was brought down near Bagram Airport [north of Kabul]. Quoting reliable mojahedin sources in Parwan Province, a Radio of Message of Freedom correspondent reports that yesterday afternoon one of two helicopters of the coalition forces, which were flying from Kabul to Bagram Airport, was shot down by mojahedin air defense weapons.

The report adds that a 27-man armed group from the Supervisory Council [Shura-ye Nezar] which was being carried by the helicopter, was killed along with two pilots. The report says that after the downing of the helicopter a group of [words indistinct] which was flying to the location where the helicopter was shot down, was attacked by mojahedin along its path as a result of which two of them were killed and 10 were captured.

Islamic Unity Party Said Set To Attend Riyadh Meeting

LD3001140993 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 30 Jan 93

[Text] The Pakistani ambassador in Kabul visited the headquarters of the Islamic Unity Party of Afghanistan [Hezb-e Wahdat-e Eslami-ye] in the Afghan capital and met with the party's secretary general, Mr. Mazari.

During the meeting, the Islamic Unity Party's secretary general declared the party's conditional readiness to participate in the Riyadh session.

According to another report from Kabul, General Dostum's senior deputies in military and political affairs, General Abdol-Majid and General Mo'men, met with the Islamic Unity Party's secretary general at the party's headquarters and declared that the forces of the national-religious movement in the north are totally neutral in the current fighting in Kabul.

Golboddin Holds Discussion With Saudi Ambassador

LD3101131593 (Clandestine) Radio Message of Freedom in Pashto to Afghanistan 0900 GMT 31 Jan 93

[Text] An authoritive source in the Special Office of the leader of Hezb-e Eslami told a correspondent from Radio Message of Freedom that at 0900 this morning brother Hekmatyar, leader of the Hezb-e Eslami of Afghanistan, received Mohammad al-Kohbedi [name as heard], ambassador extraordinary and special envoy of Saudi Arabia in Kabul, in a jehadi trench located south of Kabul. The report adds that during this meeting, brother Hekmatyar and the Saudi ambassador spoke about the current situation in Afghanistan, the decisions made by the Leadership Council, and the conference of [word indistinct] of the jehadi leaders in Saudi Arabia. At the meeting, which lasted [word indistinct], brother Abdul Rasul Sayyaf was also present with brother Hekmatyar.

Clandestine Radio Reports Plot To Kill Commander

LD0202114093 (Clandestine) Radio Message of Freedom in Pashto to Afghanistan 0905 GMT 2 Feb 93

[Text] A treacherous conspiracy by the coalition administration to murder Lieutenant General Amanollah Khozhman, commander of Zarb-e Momin division, was uncovered and foiled.

A responsible source of the Security Services Department told a correspondent from Radio Message of Freedom that a treacherous conspiracy by the coalition forces which was being prepared to murder Lieutenant General Amanollah Khozhman, commander of the Islamic Party's Zarb-e Momin division, was foiled as a result of cooperation by officials of the Security Services Department of the Islamic Party and officials in charge of the Zarb-e Momin division. Those responsible for the conspiracy were punished for their actions.

The report states that according to information obtained by the Islamic Party's Security Services Department a person named Khoday Dad, son of Wali Jan, an inhabitant of Qaria-ye (?Chigal), Pol-e Sorkh, in Maydanshahr was commissioned by the coalition administration to murder commander Amanollah. As a result of a search of the suspect's house, nine kg of explosive substances, one magnetic bomb, six hand grenades, one anti-personnel mine, one rocket, two Kalashnikovs, one pistol, and a quantity of ammunition for heavy and light weapons were found and seized.

During the course of subsequent investigations it was revealed that the coalition administration had paid him 25 million Afghani in advance. It had also promised Khoday Dad that in the event of successful conclusion of the conspiracy, he would also be given two Datsun cars.

Bangladesh

Zia Postpones France Visit Due To Elections

BK3001161093 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh Network in Bengali 1430 GMT 30 Jan 93

[Text] Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia has postponed her official visit to France due to domestic preoccupations. Stating this in Dhaka today, the Foreign Ministry said that it is in touch with the French Foreign Ministry to fix a new date for the visit at the invitation of French President Francois Mitterrand. The Foreign Ministry said that efforts are under way to fix a mutually convenient date and the date fixed for early February appears now to be unsuitable because of the prime minister's domestic preoccupations. The prime minister will now be preoccupied with the municipal elections and an important parliamentary by-election.

Elections Held for 89 Municipal Bodies 30 Jan

BK3001164093 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh Network in Bengali 1430 GMT 30 Jan 93

[Text] Elections for 89 municipal corporations in the country were held peacefully today. The chief election commissioner visited a number of polling stations in Mymensingh and Muktagacha municipal corporations and expressed satisfaction at the turnout of voters and peaceful voting. Of a total 106 municipal corporations, voting was held in 89. According to a verdict of the Supreme Court, the Election Commission postponed the election of Comilla and Narsinghdi municipal corporations. Polling began at 0700 and continued till 1500 without any break. The Election Commission made all arrangements to ensure free and fair voting.

Poll Violence Leaves 2 Dead

BK3101071093 Hong Kong AFP in English 0700 GMT 31 Jan 93

[Text] Dhaka, Jan 31 (AFP)—One man was killed and some 100 others injured during municipal elections in Bangladesh, press reports said Sunday [31 January].

The DAILY STAR newspaper said that one person was killed and 20 injured Saturday when unidentified people attacked a polling centre in nearby Munshiganj, throwing bombs and shooting, to disrupt voting.

Eighty others were injured in clashes in several other areas, reports said, adding that voting was also called off at four other centers.

Another activist was killed Thursday at the end of campaigning to elect candidates to 4,471 posts in 89 municipal governments.

Some 2.2 million Bangladeshis voted in non-partisan polls Saturday amid tight security and a temporary ban on carrying weapons.

The election commission reported they had results from 85 municipalities and an official announcement would be made soon. It added that voting had been postponed in four constituencies because of "violence."

Although the elections were carried out on a non-party basis, major political parties gave unofficial support to the contestants.

Newspaper reports indicated that candidates backed by Prime Minister Khaleda Zia's ruling Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) were leading. The BNP-owned DINKAL newspaper said that of the 40 available results, 19 were won by candidates supported by the party, while 11 went to candidates who were backed by the major opposition Awami League (AL).

However, an AL spokesman told AFP that they had so far received results of 79 municipalities and that AL-backed candidates had won in 30 constituencies with the BNP-supported candidates garnering only 27.

The mass circulation ITTEFAQ newspaper said results from 67 municipalities showed that 25 went to BNP-backed and 17 to AL-backed candidates.

In the last municipal elections, in 1989, the majority of winning candidates were backed by the Jatiya Party, led by then president Hussain Mohammad Ershad.

Effort Under Way To Improve 'Cold' Indian Ties

BK3101153893 Hong Kong AFP in English 1326 GMT 31 Jan 93

[Text] Dhaka, Jan 31 (AFP)—Bangladesh Foreign Minister Mostafizur Rahman said Sunday that relations with India were a "little cold" in the wake of the Babri mosque affair, but said efforts were underway to improve them.

"We have a little cold relations (with India) ... some misunderstanding has taken place but it is not beyond repair," Rahman said in response to a question at a meeting here with foreign correspondents.

"It can be repaired through talks ... we are on the road to normalisation," he added.

Indo-Bangladesh relations have come under strain over the recent condemnation by Bangladesh's parliament of the December 6 destruction of the 16th century Babri mosque in India's Ayodhya town by Hindu zealots.

India last week strongly denounced Bangladesh for its December 20 parliamentary resolution condemning the razing of the mosque, and warned Dhaka against intereference.

Indian spokesman termed the resolution, initiated by Prime Minister Khaleda Zia's ruling Bangladesh Nationalist Party, as "totally unacceptable interference in our internal affairs."

Dhaka in turn dismissed that statement as "regrettable and disappointing."

Rahman defended the resolution, which called on New Delhi to immediately reconstruct the razed mosque at its original site.

The mosque's destruction led to bloody Hindu-Muslim riots across India and some serious but much less widespread violence in the neighbouring Muslim countries of Bangladesh and Pakistan.

India

Prime Minister Rules Out Midterm Elections

BK0202130693 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1230 GMT 2 Feb 93

[Text] The prime minister has called for setting aside the mandir-masjid [temple-mosque] dispute for three to four years to focus full attention on the development of the country. Addressing a massive rally in Mau in eastern Uttar Pradesh today, Mr. P.V. Narasimha Rao said if violence persists, development will suffer. Mr. Rao assured the people that the center will provide all possible assistance for the development of the backward regions in Uttar Pradesh. Mr. Rao also said that the central government will fully honor the judgment handed out by the Supreme Court on the Ayodhya dispute. The prime minister ruled out any midterm poll, saying his government will last the full term.

Former Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Mr. N.D. Tiwari and Mr. Kalpanath Roy were among others who addressed the rally.

Paper Gives Details of Campaign To Remove Rao

BK3101102293 Delhi PATRIOT in English 23 Jan 93 p 1

[Text] In an attempt to counter 'Rao hatao' [remove Rao] campaign launched by senior Congress leaders, Mr. Narasimha Rao has reportedly summoned trouble shooters to bail him out from current political crisis, reports ANI [ASIAN NEWS INTERNATIONAL].

AICC [All India Congress Committee] sources said veteran leaders Vidya Charan Shukla, Narain Dutt Tiwari, V.N. Gadgil, Sitaram Kesari, Sushil Kumar Shinde, Rajesh Pilot and Salman Khursheed have all been mobilised by the Congress high command to counter the campaign reportedly launched by K.N. Singh, A.R. Antulay, Madhav Rao Scindia, M.L. Fotedar, Vayalar Ravi, K. Ramamurthy, Buta Singh and others. Mr. Rao is reportedly worried over a large number of leaders going on record criticising him over Ayodhya issue.

Moreover, Rao is reportedly displeased with "indifferent attitude" of his colleagues such as Sharad Pawar, Arjun Singh and S. B. Chavan who are allegedly making no efforts to defend Mr. Rao except for maintaining a studied silence.

Sources said Mr. Rao has chalked out "stick and carrot" strategy to deal with the sudden upsurge in dissident activities while he has instructed his trouble shooters to impress upon a few leaders to keep quiet and has reportedly promised some reward for their loyalty. He is planning to come down heavily on others. Moreover, Mr. Rao is reportedly deliberately keeping a few vacancies open in both the Government and the party so that leaders do not unite and revolt.

Sources, however, admitted that by conceding to the dissidents' demand to convene the AICC session, Mr. Rao has succumbed to pressure, but added that in a few days' time, Mr. Rao will thwart their designs.

Meanwhile, AICC sources expressed surprise over the recent outbursts made by A.R. Antulay and alleged that his utterances are a result of his failure to secure a ministerial berth for himself.

Sources point out that barely a fortnight ago, during a Muslim MPs meet on Ayodhya, Mr. Antulay had come under sharp criticism by many MPs for his staunch defence of Mr. Rao's handling of Ayodhya crisis. Mr. Antulay had reportedly told the gathering that Rao is one of the finest Prime Ministers India has ever had. He was chided by Janata Dal MPs for indulging in "blatant sycophancy." Sources wonder how the same Narasimha Rao became a villain for him in two weeks' time.

A senior party functionary hailing from Mr. Antulay's State alleged that Mr. Antulay's remarks are a product of frustration.

Meanwhile, in a dramatic move Aslam Sher Khan, MP, called off the much-publicised 'soul-searching' meeting of the AICC members to discuss the State of Congress party today.

The meeting was scheduled to be held in New Delhi on January 28. According to Mr. Aslam, more than 2,500 party leaders were invited to attend the meeting.

AICC sources revealed that the party high command exerted pressure on Mr. Aslam to call off the meeting. It is believed that Mr. Narasimha Rao was of the view that the meeting might offer a platform for the dissidents to air their grievances over Mr. Rao's handling of the Ayodhya issue.

Meanwhile, informed sources told ANI that Mr. Aslam is likely to be rewarded with AICC joint secretaryship. Sources said Mr. Aslam Sher Khan called on Mr. Rao on Thursday [21 January]. He was asked to explain the motives of the proposed meeting. Following which Mr. Rao reportedly said that he acknowledged Mr. Aslam's concern for the party and promised that while revamping the AICC, he will avail Mr. Aslam's services.

Earlier, Mr. Vidya Charan Shukla, Mr. Sushil Kumar Shinde and Mr. Rajesh Pilot met Mr. Aslam and urged him to call off the meet in the 'larger interests of the party.' However, sources revealed that Mr. Aslam did not budge and tried to mobilise support from both Mr.

Sharad Pawar and Mr. Arjun Singh. It is believed that when both leaders drew cold feet, Mr. Aslam was forced to toe the line.

Sources said in the past too, Mr. Aslam had organised similar meetings which were attended by a large number of MPs, ex-MPs and AICC members.

Government Withdraws 42 From Consulate in Karachi

BK0202125093 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1230 GMT 2 Feb 93

[Text] India has withdrawn 42 members from its Consulate General in Karachi, following the Pakistan Government's request. The Consulate is now left with just 20 members. AIR [All India Radio] Islamabad correspondent, quoting Indian High Commission sources, says the number is inadequate to cope with the 700 visa applications received daily.

Kashmir Governor Says Pakistan Waging Proxy War

BK0202092093 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 2 Feb 93

[Text] The Jammu and Kashmir governor, Mr. G.C. Saxena, has expressed the confidence that terrorism in the Kashmir valley will be contained in the coming few months. Talking to a group of visiting journalists from Delhi at Raj Bhavan [Governor Residence] in Srinagar on Sunday, he, however, said the difficulties and challenges cannot be understated. He said the present unfortunate situation in the valley is because of a new proxy war being waged by Pakistan from across the border. Mr. Saxena said the restoration of a popular government in the state will help in winning the confidence of the people. He said while the state administration is ready to make arrangements for holding elections any time, it is making further efforts to bring in a conducive atmosphere. He, however, said that no definite timeframe can be said for the purpose.

Paper Says Kashmir Mojahedin Manufacture Rocket

BK0102140093 Madras DINAMALAR in Tamil 22 Jan 93 p 4

[Text] Islamabad, 22 Jan.—Mojahedin extremists in Kashmir have manufactured a rocket. Abdul Dar, the leader of the mojahedin extremist organization, told this to newsmen in Muzaffarpur. The rocket, which was manufactured in Kashmir, has been named Zarb-i-Haider. Indian troops in Sopor have come under attack from this rocket. It can cause massive damage and is said to be very powerful.

'Hard-Core' Kashmir Militant Arrested in Srinagar

BK0102160693 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 1 Feb 93

[Text] Hard-core militant Abdul Aziz Dar, who was active in rural areas of the Kashmir Valley, was arrested in Srinagar this afternoon. Producing the militant before the newsmen immediately after his arrest, the inspector general of Border Security Force of Kashmir frontier, Mr. Ashok Patel, said that Dar was arrested when he was trying to meet leaders of other militant organizations in an effort to bring them together. Dar is considered to be the third in the hierarchy of the outlawed outfit. The militant told newsmen that any grievance of the people in Kashmir can only be resolved through a peaceful dialogue and the militancy cannot be a solution.

Six Punjab Militants Killed in Separate Encounters

BK0102151193 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1430 GMT 1 Feb 93

[Text] In Punjab, six militants including one hard-core were killed in separate encounters since last evening. According to an official spokesman, one hard-core militant, Dilraj Singh—self-styled lieutenant general of a militant organization—and two of his accomplices were killed in an encounter with security forces at village Gagrewal in Tarn Taran area of Amritsar District today. Two militants were killed in Ludhiana District and one in Faridkot District. Four militants surrendered at Batala in Gurdaspur District.

Five Soldiers Killed in Manipur Ambush

BK0202091293 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 2 Feb 93

[Text] In Manipur, five CRPF [Central Reserve Police Force] jawans [soldiers] were killed and five others injured yesterday evening in an ambush by NSCN [National Socialist Council of Nagaland] activists. According to the police, the incident occurred when two CPRF vehicles carrying 25 jawans were attacked at Mahpur dam in Senapati District. In another incident, near Imphal, the police killed two suspected extremists this morning when they tried to attack a police party with bombs while it was combing the area.

Assam Militants Surrender to Authorities

BK0102151893 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1430 GMT 1 Feb 93

[Text] In Assam, 93 ULFA [United Liberation Front of Assam] activists surrendered to different district authorities yesterday, the deadline set by the state government for their surrender. With this, the total number of those surrendered has gone up to 165 this [as heard] month. According to official sources at Dispur, security forces have also apprehended 69 ULFA activists and recovered a large quantity of arms and ammunition and vehicles during the month.

Iran

Paper Discusses Tehran-Washington Ties

LD0202092493 Tehran IRNA in English 0811 GMT 2 Feb 93

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 2, IRNA—KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL today commented on relations between Iran and the United States. Excerpts:

"Based on the foreign policy of the Islamic republic, Iran cannot have any diplomatic ties with Israel, and to a lesser extent with South Africa... Outside of these two countries, the Islamic republic can and will have ties with all other countries, including Washington.

"Of course, there are some basic differences between the Islamic and Western thinking that can never be overcome, but these basic ideological differences have never hindered the possibility of ties between Tehran and Western capitals. However, relations with Washington has been an exception and the Islamic republic has been specially touchy and defensive about it.

"In general, Tehran-Washington ties is in need of a breakthrough because of complete lack of understanding and trust between the two capitals... And that is why those following developments in Tehran-Washington's ties are looking to see what the new U.S. President, Bill Clinton, will do, and how differently he will act to bring into the picture these two missing but necessary elements. This period of expectation can be used very positively and constructively by the new U.S. Administration if it should have any interest in mending ties.

"The U.S. has always wanted to open diplomatic ties with Iran but through the application of wrong approaches or mechanism... Which have never produced positive outcomes because of lack of familiarity with Islam, Muslim clergy and the Islamic Republic of Iran... Iran's legitimate demands have never been heeded to, and not until they are, there will be any change in the state of ties.

"An approach used by Washington which has consistently backfired is the dissemination of false information about Iran to distort its image... If Washington engages in anti-Islamic republic campaign it should not be surprised by Iran's reciprocation of the hostile acts...

"Washington is losing a lot for the pursuit of this hostile policy toward Iran. According to the first and second five-year development plans—of which the first is in progress—Iran will have to spend dozens of billions of dollars to modernize or reconstruct its industries. Unlike Japan and Western European countries, the U.S. has not had any part in this crusade... If the present trend in the ties, or rather their absence, between the two capitals continue Washington will never be a part of this bonanza. In a competitive trade world this is a considerable loss.

"Tehran-Washington ties is in need of defusing. Iran has already done its part by among others using its influence to secure the release of the American hostages in Lebanon. The new U.S. Administration can do its part, as Mr. Rafsanjani said during his (Sunday) [31 January] press conference, by releasing the frozen Iranian assets and show on concrete terms its sincerity in opening ties with Tehran. The ball is now in Washington's court."

Columnist Sees Need for Change in U.S. Policies

NC3101111593 Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 23 Jan 93 pp 20, 19

[Commentary by Dr. Hamid Mowlana: "A Word to Bill Clinton"]

[Text] President Clinton:

A few days ago, before you gave your inaugural speech and officially assumed your duties, you said at various meetings that you want to hear the advice and views of others on national and international issues. For the past few weeks, former U.S. statesmen and the U.S. press have once again started to portray Iran and developments in the region and the Islamic world in a negative manner. I, therefore, deemed it necessary to point out a few political, social, cultural, and economic issues to you.

What I am saying here are my personal views as an independent academician and an international observer who has been studying and observing U.S. foreign policy on Iran and the Persian Gulf since the presidency of General Eisenhower, and especially during the recent years. What I am saying in brief in this letter is completely different from the common views and statements today by those so-called "experts" who have, for years, been analyzing U.S. policies on Iran. The important question is: How interested are you in radically changing U.S. foreign policy? How much are you willing to alter the basic ideas of the past few decades—ideas that have been the major reason for most of America's defeats and problems in areas like the Persian Gulf? Will your programs actually be a continuation of the policies of the past decades?

I believe one of the major reasons for the defeat of your rival, George Bush, in the recent U.S. elections was that the United States and its economic and political situation changed during the four years of the Bush administration, but Bush and his policies did not. For the American people, the economy, poverty, and domestic problems were important, not the defeat of communism and the victory over Saddam Husayn. Today the views, analyses, and remarks on Iran in Washington's official circles, in U.S. Government institutions, and major American media have been offered by the very people who were major players in the defeat of U.S. foreign policy in the Middle East and whose forecasts on Iran were systematically proven wrong. How beneficial is this egoism for the American nation and future generations of Americans?

The policies of Carter, Reagan, and Bush on Iran for the past 20 years have not only hurt America, but the nonconformity of these policies with global and regional realities and situations has made the American public lose trust in its government and has led to corruption and wrongdoings, of which you yourself are very well aware. During the last few weeks of the Bush administration, when the transition of power to you and your colleagues appeared to be progressing normally, attacks on Iran through the press and the Washington bureaucracy suddenly intensified. This time the propaganda focused on claims that Iran is seeking regional hegemony, that it is replenishing its weapons and even trying to gain access to nuclear weapons, and, moreover, that Iran is supporting antistate demonstrations, Islamist or Islamic "fundamentalist" movements in the Middle East, Africa, Asia, and even Europe.

I think there are three important political, economic, and cultural reasons behind these tall tales. You should be well aware of them. From the political and security aspect, the issue of hegemony and the concern over Iran's military reconstruction are mostly being expressed by those Americans and Arab governments that—two years after Saddam Husayn's defeat in the Persian Gulf war—want Iraq's confrontation with Iran in the region to be revived. This group comprises conservative Arab leaders and supporters of these regimes in the State Department, which, 10 years ago, encouraged Saddam Husayn to impose a war on Iran in an effort to annihilate the Islamic Revolution of Iran.

Mr. Clinton, recall how before the Gulf war, the United States, France, Britain, and conservative Arab regimes like Kuwait and Saudi Arabia gave all kinds of military assistance to Iraq and Saddam Husayn to prevent the victory of the Islamic movement in this region. The military and so-called atomic bases in Iraq bombed by George Bush this week were built with the assistance, technology, and credits of Washington, London, and Paris. In other words, U.S. foreign policy toward Iran and the Persian Gulf for the past decade has been a big and irreparable mistake. Gulf security is not logical without Iran's participation as a regional power. The presence of U.S. military power and fleet in the Gulf to safeguard "security" and support the pro-Washington governments is unnatural and cannot be permanent. War and military actions to achieve objectives are a sign of a decline in power and the defeat of international credibility and diplomacy. From the historical point of view, such military actions have always indicated the weakness of superpowers in safeguarding their interests through nonmilitary and political means.

From the political aspect, the problem of U.S. foreign policy in the Gulf, the Middle East, and Islamic countries is the legitimacy of the governments and regimes that Washington supports. Mr. Clinton, the question that you should ask yourself is: In today's world, how legitimate are the regimes and governments you support here? The downfall of Iran's monarchy and the experience of the Islamic Revolution as well as the sociopolitical developments in the former Soviet Union and East Europe should be a lesson to you. America's former and current friends and partners in the Middle East are people who are mistrusted by the ordinary people and whose legitimacy declines more and more each day.

As for the economic aspect, as long as America and the West are unable to improve their domestic consumption and energy policy, even though they are using the Middle East's cheap energy resources, their only alternative is to face the energy-producing countries in the Persian Gulf. As far as Iran is concerned, the improvement of its economic situation after eight years of imposed war with Iraq and trying to achieve development and infrastructure reconstruction by using existing technologies is only natural. But Washington's efforts to prevent the transfer of modern technology to Iran is not only unnatural, but will also be impractical in the long run.

From the cultural and historic aspect, the problem of U.S. foreign policy lies in its lack of understanding of the Islamic world and its struggle against Islamic movements. Islamism is a social process and a historic leap forward. U.S. policy tries to negate this indubitable process. Iran is the forerunner and center of the Islamic movement. Iran has not, however, exported Islamic movements to Algeria, Egypt, Saudi Arabia, and other places. Cultural, social, and political movements have deep and old roots. This is a historical process that America cannot alter. If it tries, however, it can understand it.

Mr. President! The world has changed in many ways. Human interests dictate that you understand these cultural and political movements and not confront them. The complicated nature of international politics today is not limited only to strategic, military, and political aspects. Social, cultural, religious, and historical aspects have become the inseparable part of foreign policies in our age. The big question is: Will major changes be made in U.S. foreign policy to face these developments?

Daily Views Future of U.S.-Iraqi Crisis

NC3101102493 Tehran JAHAN-E ESLAM in Persian 23 Jan 93 pp 10, 12

[Commentary by M. Mollazadeh: "Iraq-the United States"]

[Text] The attacks by Britain, France and the United States on Iraq, in the last few days of the Bush administration, merit an assessment for a number of reasons. The fact that the United States, Britain and France did not deem it necessary to act under the ostensible cover of the Security Council will be of great importance in future world crises.

Is the fact that Saddam pursues a bad policy towards his neighbors a license for the United States and Europe to massacre the Muslim Iraqi people?

Iraq does not have the capability to combat the Western powers, despite its claims. The United States and Europe are well aware of the capabilities of Iraq, especially since they gave Iraq many of its weapons.

After the Gulf war and the UN inspections that destroyed its long-range military capabilities, Iraq can no longer claim to have the power to resist the world's greatest military power.

So why does the United States maintain Iraq in such a fluid condition, periodically embarking on missile attacks and exacerbating the regional crisis?

The recent statements of former U.S. Secretary of State Henry Kissinger hold the answer.

He says Iraq should be maintained in a weakened state. A centralized power in Baghdad is necessary to maintain the balance of power between Iran and the Arab world. This means U.S. policy in Iraq is not to change the status quo despite its missile and propaganda attacks.

If we consider Kissinger's comments the remarks of the U.S. ruling party rather than his personal viewpoint on Iraqi and Middle Eastern issues the sitaution becomes clearer.

The main problem with the United States in the Gulf is its conflict with the Islamic revolution. Iraq is being chastized for its actions, but the ultimate aim of these sanctions is not to bring down Saddam's government, simply to keep him in line. He should not be able to pose a threat to the Gulf states allied to the United States and Europe, yet Iraq must be able to counterbalance Iran. This is where the West's machinations are exposed.

Even though the Iraqi regime is constantly at loggerheads with the Islamic Republic of Iran, it is also strengthened by it. Even though Iraq drags the U.S. allies into Kuwait and is subjected to military attacks, destruction and massacre, its leadership will not be toppled.

By analyzing U.S. moves against Iraq, it is apparent that the preservation of the balance of power with Iran is the main objective, and therefore, it can be said that Iraq is being penalized for something it has not had the slightest hand in.

Northern and southern Iraq, which are ostensibly under the protection of the United States and its allies, will not be any better off than the rest of Iraq. The preservation of Iraqi unity is not something to be bartered. If any deals are made, it will probably be the surrender of Baghdad to the wishes of the allies and its transformation into a government, like the other Arab governments, that cannot pose a threat to Israel.

There are also reasons for military pressure against Iraq. The United States, the Security Council, Britain, and France are being pressured due to their dual approach to Iraq and Israel. Israeli indifference to the UN Security Council resolutions on the Palestinian deportees has obviated the United States' and its allies' ethical arguments. Therefore, it is not farfetched to assume that the latest military attacks on Iraq were aimed at diverting international attention from the Palestinian deportees.

There were other reasons as well. On the eve of his departure from the White House, George Bush handed the crisis in Iraq to Bill Clinton. By attacking Iraq, he took a sort of revenge on Clinton for defeating him in the elections. It is clear that for the new U.S. Administration, a change of direction in relations with Iraq will not be easy.

The issue of Iraq may remain on the top of the list of problems during the Clinton presidency. This could be a source of solace for the Republicans, who believe their electoral defeat stems from the incomplete Gulf war.

There is another factor that should not be underestimated: Keeping the Iraqi regime in a fluid state helps Western arms sales, which are currently in a state of stagnation. The reiteration of Iraqi claims of its historical sovereignty on Kuwait will send the fearful shaykhs into the U.S. fold, allowing Western arms industries to rake in petrodollars. The volume of transactions between the United States and the Arab shaykhs is, in itself, sufficient to understand U.S. objectives.

The other purveyors of armaments, such as Britain and France, who have not yet received their expected share of the flourishing Middle Eastern markets, have not concealed their dismay at the actions of their ally, the United States.

It is difficult to understand why Iraq exposed itself to fresh dangers by acting as it did. Except that the military situation between Iraq and the United States—if it does not topple Saddam's regime entirely—will help Saddam salvage his position among the Arabs.

Iraq can continue to play the tyrannized party, subjected to military aggression, because of its independent anti-Zionist, anti-U.S. stance. The reaction of the Arab masses, who do not understand the comlexities of world politics, will be sympathetic to the Iraqi nation. At the governmental level, however, there are many groups glad to see this treatment of Iraq, including the regimes of Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Egypt, the PLO, and Libya.

There should be no doubt that the crisis in Iraq, which has continued into Clinton's term, will not be advantagous for either side. Perhaps, this was exactly what Saddam was banking on in his dealings with Bush.

If this is true, one can expect Iraq and the United States to put the critical period of the last days of Bush's term behind them, and gradually reach a understanding. The littoral states of the Gulf will find themselves the ultimate losers in the violent game between Bush and Saddam.

Rafsanjani Speaks on Victory of Revolution

LD0102171493 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1530 GMT 1 Feb 93

[Text] In an address to foreign guests attending the celebrations for the dawn of the revolution, President Hashemi-Rafsanjani called on them to concentrate on the issues of the world of Islam, ways of unity, and combating the enemies of Islam.

In the course of the magnificent celebrations marking the 14th anniversary of the victory of the Islamic revolution, President Hashemi-Rafsanjani today met the foreign guests participating in the Ten Days of Dawn Ceremonies.

Greeting Muslims all over the world on these celebrations, President Hashemi-Rafsanjani said the most important aims of these celebrations are to review the condition of the revolution and of the Muslims, to utilize the experience of the past few years for sketching the future of the Islamic government, and to express gratitude for divine blessings.

Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani also pointed to the emergence and expansion of Islamic revolution in the contemporary era and said that this is a unique phenomenon in history.

He said that, contrary to the great lies of the powers and the propaganda claims of the West regarding Iran's physical presence in Islamic countries, it is the expansive waves of revolution and Islam that have spread from Iran to the rest of the world.

Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani said that we will have more supporters if we are able to propagate the message of the revolution through official means and a physical presence.

We claim that if the people of the world are left alone by the powers and if a fair poll is taken among the Muslims, the Islamic government will receive the majority vote, the president emphasized.

Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani pointed to the characteristics of the Islamic revolution and the most popular victory in history and discussed the opposition and problems created by the enemies of the revolution. He said that all their moves are aimed at curbing the message of Islam. The president pointed out that in the future we will continue to insist on the principles of the Islamic revolution, and all Muslims have a duty to be active in defense of Islam.

Political, scientific, and cultural figures of the country as well as more than 200 foreign guests from 57 countries were present at the ceremonies.

Ahmad Khomeyni Addresses 10 Days of Dawn Ceremony

LD0102141593 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 1 Feb 93

[Excerpts] Splendid ceremonies marking the celebrations on the anniversary of Islamic Revolution began at 0933 this morning [0603 GMT], the historic time when the imam [Khomeyni] returned to our homeland, with the ringing of bells of joy throughout the country and with the scattering of flowers along the route his eminence the imam took from Tehran airport to Behesht-e Zahra [cemetary in southern Tehran where Khomeyni went to pay his respects to those killed during the revolution and where he is now buried], and the people welcomed the commencement of the blessed Ten Days of Dawn celebrations.

Our correspondents' reports state that, simultaneously with the ringing of revolution bells in 92,000 schools, sirens were sounded on ships and trains and in factories, and church bells rang in different parts of the country, as a sign of national unity. Our correspondent sent this report about the splendid ceremonies that were held on this occasion at the blessed shrine of his eminence Imam Khomeyni, may he be admitted to God's paradise:

[Unidentified correspondent] [passage omitted] Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Haj Seyyed Ahmad Khomeyni delivered a speech in the ceremonies in which he commemorated the martyrs of the Islamic revolution and the imposed war, expressed greetings on the occasion of the 14th anniversary of the Islamic revolution to Iran's martyr-nurturing ummah and to all the Muslims of the world, and presented a brief history of the struggles of the noble Iranian nation, under the leadership of his eminence Imam Khomeyni, saying: If there is any struggle in the world today, if a voice is raised to call for Islam, the guiding light is the Islamic regime in Iran and the ideas of the imam.

He stressed: We must take the path that will safeguard the people's dignity and their sacred and humane ideals. If we take any other path, we would not have taken the imam's path. Hojjat ol- Eslam val-Moslemin Haj Seyyed Ahmad Khomeyni added: the imam's message and that of the eminent leader of the Islamic revolution and all the officials of the sacred system of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the world's Muslim and free-thinking nations is this: If you lose your human and Islamic identity, you will become West-stricken and being West-stricken is like being flood-stricken.

He spoke of the similarity between the revolutionary stances of the eminent leader of the Islamic revolution and those of the late imam and said: Today, God be praised, 14 years since the victory of the revolution and at the dawn of the 15th year of victory, if we look at the achievements of the Islamic revolution, we will see that the imam and his companions are continuing the revolutionary movement as before and military, economic, and political pressures cannot deflect them from what they rose up for. In conclusion, he stressed the need to pay greater attention to the intifadah, the Islamic uprising of the Palestinian people, and said: Unfortunately, people who were flying the flag of the Palestinian revolution yesterday are now holding meetings with the leaders of the Zionist regime at a high and extensive level; this can have no outcome other than to sow disappointment and despair in the hearts of the revolutionaries.

Elsewhere in his speech, Hojjat ol-Eslam val Moslemin Seyyed Ahmad Khomeyni stressed that those who knew the imam were aware that the imam's movement was a long-standing one, and his resolve was to continue the battle until the establishment of a global Islamic system; the establishment of an Islamic government was merely the first step to that end, and it was to prepare the groundwork for raising the basic and fundamental problems of the Islamic world.

Hojjat ol-Eslam val Moslemin Seyyed Ahmad Khomeyni underlined: His eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, the eminent leader of the Islamic revolution, will continue the imam's line and path in the best possible way. With regard to the loss of identity to the West as a result of Western cultural onslaught, he has drawn up the Islamic revolution's general policy by identifying the means of resistance. We must try to carry out his eminence's advice and guidelines.

Today, the honorable president, by drawing attention to the danger posed by America, at the Islamic countries summit conference and the Nonaligned Movement's session, proved to the world that he would not forsake his principles. We must pray for Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani's success in dealing with the economic and social problems, and in achieving optimal development for the country. Likewise, we should try to support the Majles and the Judicial Branch in order to consolidate the bases of the system.

Remarking on the trend of the compromising [Sazesh] talks between the Arabs and Israel, he considered them doomed to failure. He said: Looking at the achievements of the global Islamic revolution today, we see that the Iranian nation's movement continues to remain steadfast in world arenas. And political, economic, and military pressures fail to prevent us from attaining our goals. We warn the heads of the Arab countries and Palestinian organizations that Palestinian aspirations can only be realized through resistance from a position of power. And, as long as the Zionists treat the Arabs from a position of power, with the aggressive nature of the arrogance behind them, we are left with no choice other than talking to them from a position of power, and with arms.

Commentary Views UK-Saudi Arms Agreement

LD2901125293 Tehran IRNA in English 1201 GMT 29 Jan 93

["UK-Saudi Deal Adds to Proliferation of Arms in Middle East"—IRNA headline]

[Text] London, Jan. 29, IRNA—John Major arrived back in London Friday [29 January] after formally securing two large defense sales that protect jobs in Britain's arms industry, yet go against the Security Council's commitment to stop the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction.

The British prime minister was said to have paid stopover calls in Oman and Saudi Arabia to reassure the Arab countries about the West's policy towards Iraq following the renewal of air strikes against Baghdad earlier this month.

But defense analysts here believe that the recent bombing attacks were used to remind Arab leaders that Iraq still presents a threat to the region. Exaggerated allegations about Iran rearming was also heavily played on to boost weapon sales.

During his visit, Major was reported to be "conscious that Oman and Saudi Arabia are concerned about Iran's greater strength as a regional power was no longer checked by Iraq," an imbalance created by the West being apparent justification for arms proliferation.

All London newspapers Friday led with British jobs being saved by the Omani order for Challenger tanks and Saudi Arabia finally signing the second phase of the Al-Yamamah deal for 48 more Tornado aircraft.

None quoted the hypocrisy of Western leaders, committed to the elimination of mass destruction arms in Iraq on the one hand, and on the other, increasing the arsenals in neighboring countries.

The second phase in Britain's biggest ever arms sale, estimated at over dlrs [dollars] 50 bn [billion] in total, should have been signed five years ago, but has been subjected to continual delays amid rumors that Riyadh was overspending and may have to curtail the vast armament program.

Last week, JANE'S DEFENSE WEEKLY reported Kuwait and Saudi Arabia spending billions of dollars on expanding their American ground-based air-defense capabilities in the immediate aftermath of the renewed allied attacks on Iraq.

Both British and U.S. led last year's commitment by the first Security Council summit to curtail the proliferation of arms of mass destruction in the world, and particularly in the Middle East.

Military analysts at the time suspected that the initiative would be discriminatory at best, as the permanent members of the Council are by far the chief culprits of fanning the flames of war by their zest for selling weapons.

Domestic Threat to Islamic Revolution Viewed

LD2901132093 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 29 Jan 93

[Text] This week's Friday prayers rituals were held in various cities and regions of the country with the participation of the masses of worshippers.

During Tehran's Friday prayers sermons, Ayatollah Ahmad Jannati referred to the remarks made by the honorable leader of the Islamic revolution outlining the Islamic Republic of Iran's domestic and foreign policies and the duties of its officials. He said:

The upholding of justice and adherance to the vital principle of the propagation of virtue and prohibition of vice, shunning worldly impurities and supporting of the revolutionary forces were the most important elements for confronting the sources of threat to the Islamic revolution.

The interim Tehran Friday prayers leader said domestic threats against the Islamic revolution are more dangerous than foreign threats and said: The responsibility of the officials of the system is very significant in confronting the spread of the spirit of comfort and pleasure-seeking. He said: The way to confront the enemies' threats is jihad and struggle; but what kills the spirit of jihad is seeking worldly pleasures. Therefore the spirit of comfort-seeking should be confronted.

Ayatollah Jannati also stressed that the people of Iran will never reconcile with the enemies of the revolution and the Islamic homeland and praised the role played by the selfless and the self-sacrificing forces during the revolution and the holy defense [Iran-Iraq war] and called for the ever magnificent holding of ceremonies marking this year's Ten Days of Dawn, which coincides with the auspicious anniversary birthday of the lord of the age [12th Shiite imam, Mahdi], may God hasten his reappearance. He further called for the ever-increasing appropriate praise for the selflessness and devotion of martyrs, war-disabled and the Guards, the Army and the basijis.

In another part of the prayer sermons, the interim Tehran Friday prayers leader referred to the oppressions and hardships forced upon world Muslims, particularly in Bonsnia-Hercegovina and Palestine, and noted the need to help them, and said: Defenseless Muslims are dying of cold in Bosnia-Hercegovina, and in south Lebanon mountains, expelled Palestinians are shivering under snow and icy conditions and in such a situation the Zionist judicial system says that the expulsion of Palestinians from their homeland is legal. The court in which a few Zionist speak ought to issue such oppressive edict.

Ayatollah Jannati stressed that the history of Zionism is covered with crimes and plundering and the people of Iran and world Muslims have a grave responsibility to confront the oppressions implemented against Muslim Palestinians.

Larijani on Saddam's 'Mistakes,' Western Goals

NC3001100593 Tehran ETTELA'AT in Persian 14 Jan 93 p 16

[Dr. Mohammad Javad Larijani commentary: "Error and Scandal"]

[Text] 1. The Baghdad government has recently committed various provocations, most of which are of a military nature. Therefore Iraqi statesmen should have a specific political justification to offer for them. After Bush's defeat in the elections, the Baghdad regime decided that the Clinton administration would have no reason to continue the same approach and that under the new conditions, it might be possible to gradually come to terms with the new administration. Based on this assumption, Iraq's actions can be divided into two categories—those that merely display Bush's ultimate failure and those that prevent Iraq's dismemberment. Political stances and spurious attacks inside Kuwait fall in the first category. But the dismantling of the anti-aircraft missiles along the no-fly zone in the south is not a show. It is a serious military step with a past and present history.

2. Iraq's dismemberment? Is this just pressure on the Baghdad regime or is it a reality? I believe that the dismemberment of Iraq is a serious objective of America, Britain, and the West who think that, after all, what difference will it make if in the northern oil-rich area and around the oil wells in the south two new shaykhdoms are created? Britain and America definitely have very sweet memories of the creation of such adopted [as published] countries. However, they will let central Iraq be and they prefer to have Saddam rule this poor central area. Why Saddam? Because on the pretext of safeguarding the old and new shaykhdoms, billions of dollars of the wealth of the Islamic ummah can be plundered! Anyway, this is the difference between an adopted country and an ordinary country! Such a country can easily be milked when necessary, its government can be replaced by a good government when necessary, and so on!

Saddam's government feared that under the Bush administration Iraq would be dismembered and that the more obstacles this process had the better, even if these obstacles could be removed within a matter of days! Iraq's calculations on deploying anti-aircraft missiles may have been based on the following assumption: If any movement is observed in southern Iraq, the Iraqi ground forces will react strongly and the United States will have to interfere on the pretext of air cover for the region, in which case the anti-aircraft missiles could be a nuisance to them!

3. Undoubtedly, in the history of politics a very limited number of people have committed and repeated as many

mistakes as Saddam Husayn has committed in Iraq! The Kuwait-Iraq issue unveiled the disgraceful behavior of the United Nations and the existence of the pivotal (law) [as published] of the new rulers of the world! In Bosnia-Hercegovina no-fly zones and other similar measures have been created by the Security Council. Many resolutions and decisions have also been adopted on Israel, the latest being the Security Council decision on the tragic deportation of more than 400 Palestinians under difficult conditions. But none of these resolutions and decisions have been implemented! But the zealots of the Security Council are silent! Can there be a bigger scandal than this for an international forum? If this is the situation, then Third World countries can reconsider their membership in this organization. Why should an organization that is nothing but a tool in the hands of an exclusive club pretend that it is international?

'Iran-Iraq Balance' Seen in Clinton's Policies

NC3001095093 Tehran JAHAN-E ESLAM in Persian 24 Jan 93 pp 10, 12

[M. Mollazadeh commentary: "The Iran-Iraq Balance"]

[Excerpts] Bill Clinton has entered the White House leading a Democratic Party that has not been in power for over a decade. The Democrats have taken over the reins of one of the most fearful military powers in the world. Bush and the Republicans did not relinquish their policy of intimidation, threats and massacre. Attacks on Iraq in the last few days of the Bush government—regardless of the pretext—had no logical justification. It was a foolish display of strength that even Bush's closest aids could not justify.

It is too early to say whether Clinton will continue all of Bush's policies; however certain policies, such as those involving strategic national interests, will not be dramatically changed. Tactics may differ, but the Democrats have not forgotten the experience of the Carter era.

The Democrats have not had much success in dealing with regional crises. Perhaps they will put the sword back in the scabbard. Clinton and his team have seen the results of the Carter and Reagan eras and it does not appear that they will try to tackle regional crises as carelessly as Carter. However, the Republicans' tactics will not be totally acceptable to the Democrats either. A combination of both might be the more appropriate tactic for Clinton and his team.

Clinton is entering the White House at a time when the United States is facing a domestic economic crisis and is lagging behind competitors such as Japan in technological innovations and economic expansion. Lower income groups in the United States are living in poverty, a situation aggravated during the tenure of the Republicans.

Clinton's main campaign slogans advocate more attention to the domestic economic situation. But the factors affecting the economy are not all controlled by the Presient. Thus, Clinton will not be able to keep his campaign promises. Of course there will not be an immediate reversal. It will be done gradually and slowly, in a manner that won't harm the prestige of the President or destroy his chances for reelection.

It is unrealistic to hope that the United States under Clinton will focus entirely on its internal situation allowing other countries to breathe easily. There will not be any major change in policy regarding the outside world. The regional crises, especially in the Middle East, will still have top priority. The Iran-Iraq issue will still be a U.S. foreign policy priority.

Clinton has openly said he is committed to Bush's policy towards Iraq. At the same time, however, he has sent signals that a different policy may be possible. He has not openly declared a stance towards Iran, but there are certain recommendations that cannot be taken lightly.

The Democrats believe their defeat at the hands of the Islamic Republic of Iran is the reason behind their prolonged absence from the White House. The Iran-Iraq balance of power will have a special position in Clinton's strategies for the Middle East. [passage omitted]

Iraq has shown the ability to be flexible when it wishes, and Saddam would not face any shattering problems at home if he does a complete about-face. The Clinton administration is aware of this and probably will not remove Saddam from power. This differs somewhat from Clinton's stated policy that he will continue Bush's policies.

It appears that Saddam will be willing to accede to most of Clinton's demands in the region. This is why the Iran-Iraq balance is so important. [passage omitted]

In the balance of power, there is no doubt that the United States will focus on Tehran in an attempt to bring the Islamic Revolution to its knees. If Tehran remains steadfast, however, Baghdad will be next on the list. Thus Saddam's chances for remaining in power lie in the hands of Tehran, which suffered eight years of war but displays a slow comprehension of this situation.

Islam Seen as Most Important Lever Against U.S.

NC0102112093 Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 24 Jan 93 p 2

[Majid Reza'iyan commentary: "National Security and Future Threats"]

[Text] The correct understanding of U.S. foreign policy in new U.S. President Bill Clinton's term is particularly significant. The United States faces major problems and difficulties, which should not remain hidden from Iranian experts and analysts of political and security issues. These issues could pose new threats to the countries that oppose the United States.

If we list the major issues confronting U.S. foreign policy, they would be as follows:

1. Efforts to achieve leadership of the new world order.

2. Control of the world's economic poles and resources and markets.

3. Reining in proliferating Islamism.

4. Maintaining the superiority of a united Europe.

No matter how we look at it, the solution would be linked with the defeat of Iran as an important and potential regional and world power. In the new world order, achieving world leadership is not linked only with military and economic factors; there is also an array of cultural factors.

Iran is a repository of a very deep form of Islamism, which makes it an indicator in the future world order. On the plane of Islamism, Iran is an example for the Muslims; this will make U.S. centers of strategic studies and decisionmaking focus, in their calculations, on Tehran. This is why international policies on governments and nations will not evolve according to the wishes of the United States.

In communications and because of the collapse of Marxism, the impasse of Western culture, and mankind's leaning toward spirituality, every country that has a suitable message to convey and has the answer to moral needs and the questions of crisis-ridden humanity will gain the upper hand—unless the West's mass communications media conquer public thinking through satellites.

U.S. foreign policy now faces these extraneous and salient considerations, so Bill Clinton, like his predecessors, will not deal very lightly with those who oppose or rival the United States. Today, Iran, Russia, and the PRC are getting full attention. Then there is also Japan and a united Europe.

Facts and figures indicate that Russia is absorbed in the capitalist camp and that the United States seeks to capture that country's last economic and political bases. The PRC and Iran will be next on the list of U.S. foreign policy objectives for two totally different reasons. This is serious, because we are almost on the brink of the new world order. Things will take on clearer meaning viewed against the backdrop of U.S. domestic difficulties and if we ponder their social repercussions.

The United States seeks to get Iran off the scene so that it can impose its own Western version of economic freedom, human rights, and democracy. It is unlikely that despite the U.S. attacks on Iraq, this will constitute its ultimate and focal policy. Today the tactics of exerting political pressure are gradually being considered more effective than military tactics and the current atmosphere prevailing in international relations is different from that in the Gorbachev era and around the time of the dismantling of the Berlin wall.

Today the esteemed officials of the Supreme National Security Council should ask themselves: What are the threats to our national security? To what extent can these threats reveal themselves in the military, economic, or political fields?

If our main security organs [preceding word in English] are upgraded to minimize threats, the question arises: How strong is our revolution?

Iran is endowed with strong and innovative levers that should be protected and strengthened. Islamism is our most important lever—if lost, it would mean that one of the most fundamental pillars of national security would be harmed. So Islamism is a deterrent factor that directly affects the actions of U.S. foreign policy decisionmaking centers. The cultural wealth in the country and the safeguarding of the spiritual values of the revolution, which has attracted the world's attention as it thirsts for spirituality, are considered to form another, most important pillar of national security.

Just imagine that when the mesmerizing melodies of basiji thought resound across the country, there is no power that could defeat it. The West has perceived and experienced this cultural enrichment, this power, this steadfastness in us. This is why, in these two or three years, it has striven—by organizing forces affiliated with its culture and its Masonic lodges—to break this strong dam, which is only possible if the lines of obsequiousness are strengthened. This tactic would be the last by the United States, but its most important hope to extricate Iran from its "era of opposition." Perhaps today it is better to understand why, in the past few years since the resolution [598] was accepted, some elitists and those who think differently have harped about this line of compromise and advocated leniency and flexibility and mending fences with the international hegemonic system.

Perhaps the article "Direct Talks" [by Vice President Mohajerani advocating ties with the United States] and "Iran and Egypt" [Mohajerani's call for relations with Egypt] can be viewed in this context and considered to strengthen such a line in our publications. In the past few years this line has brought such forces together in economics and culture—the so-called political right and left—to compromise the Islamic revolution.

We can comprehend why the great leader stressed the need to protect the revolution's vital interests in his recent meetings and addresses and why he has been calling officials' attention to this issue. Combating this servile line in every sphere is an obligation delegated to us by the great leader of the revolution.

Implementing his exhortations will guarantee that the system's values are perpetuated at home and that the wave of Islamism is boosted abroad as one of the main pillars of our national security. What threatens our national security today is the West's calculated efforts to strengthen the line of compromise in various fields; we should take this threat very seriously!

Kuwaiti Embassy Refusing To Stamp Iranians' Visas

LD3101185193 Tehran IRNA in English 1708 GMT 31 Jan 93

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 31, IRNA—A group of Iranians who have received working visas from Kuwait by way of their relatives living there, gathered in front of the Kuwaiti Embassy here today calling on embassy officials to clarify their status.

They claim that the Kuwaiti Embassy is not stamping the visas on their passports. The visas are valid for four months only.

The Kuwaiti Embassy which reopened a few days ago after being closed for two months has put up a notice on the embassy wall saying that it would not attest visas for the time being.

The Iranians say they will suffer heavy loss if the embassy does not stamp their visas within the validity term.

"I worked in Kuwait for 15 years and I lost my job and all my property during the Persian Gulf war in 1991. Now when I have received an employment visa, the embassy does not stamp it," complained Ganji.

Khosrow Pildam said that for the last ten days he was calling at the Kuwaiti Embassy for the attestation of his work visa but wihtout success.

He said the Indian and Pakistani nationals have no such a problem in this regard, and called on the Foreign Ministry to get in touch with the Kuwaiti Embassy officials to resolve their problem.

Ambassador to Tajikistan Discusses Relations

NC2901124593 Tehran SALAM in Persian 8 Jan 93 p 12

[Interview with 'Ali Ashraf Mojtahed-Shabestari, ambassador to Tajikistan, by unidentified SALAM correspondent; place and date not given]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] [Correspondent] What has the Islamic Republic of Iran done to prevent the massacre of the people of Tajikistan and to eliminate their problems?

[Shabestari] Since the outbreak of unrest in Tajikistan, the Islamic Republic of Iran has concentrated its efforts to help achieve an amicable settlement. President Hashemi-Rafsanjani was the first president of a foreign government to telephone then-President Rakhman Nabiyev when the Ashgabat session was being held in the beginning of the [Iranian] year. [passage omitted]

I should say that our assistance has been in response to the extensive needs of the people of Tajikistan. What we sent was quite inadequate but still greater than that sent by other countries. The grateful Tajik people expressed their immense appreciation and gratitude for the brotherly assistance by the Islamic Republic of Iran. [passage omitted]

[Correspondent] What is the current condition of hundreds of thousands of Tajik refugees?

[Shabestari] More than half a million refugees are living in very difficult and trying conditions in Dushanbe, Badakhshan Province and the border regions of Afghanistan. [passage omitted]

In view of the economic crisis in Tajikistan, the government's assistance is not enough. The eyes of the Muslim people of Tajikistan are focused on the brotherly assistance of the Iranian government and nation. In my opinion, this is also our religious duty. I hope our country's media will highlight the unfortunate plight of these refugees and the immense responsibility of our compatriots to our Tajik peers, who speak our language. [passage omitted]

Foreign Influences Seen Causing Tajikistan Unrest

NC3001161993 Tehran SALAM in Persian 31 Dec 92 p 16

[Unattributed commentary: "The People of Tajikistan: Multiplied Oppression"]

[Excerpts] Reports from the Republic of Tajikistan indicate that weeks after the reestablishment of Russian domination and the return of dictatorship to that country, and at a time when the new Government of Tajikistan—in a propaganda display—declared a day last week the day of national reconciliation, and Russian radio and television claim that calm has been established throughout the country, bloody clashes between pro-Russian forces and Russian soldiers on the one hand and Islamic and national forces on the other continue in various parts of Tajikistan. Even though news on the continuation of massacres and the plundering of the people's property are being strongly censored by the Tajik and Russian Governments, and several reporters have been executed by firing squad because of their activities, nevertheless the dimensions of the crimes are so vast that even the dispersed and incomplete reports that are received speak of the depth of bestiality and arbitrariness by the new rulers, who are protected by Russia. [passage omitted]

It is sheer simplemindedness if we think that the war, massacre, and pillaging in Tajikistan are just a domestic conflict among the various political groups and parties of that country. On the contrary, reports indicate that foreigners—and especially the Russian Government and the anti-religious Government of Uzbekistan—fear the establishment of a popular regime in Tajikistan and have played the most important role in creating and protracting the conflicts.

The Russians should learn a lesson from their attack on the Islamic country of Afghanistan, which led to their disgraceful retreat. They should know that as some of the leaders of Islamic and national parties in Tajikistan have recently stated, despite the current difficult conditions, the Islamic and national forces will continue their just struggles until the Russian aggressors are ousted, their domestic minions are crushed, and a popular government is established.

Today oppressed Muslims in various countries such as occupied Palestine, Bosnia, Somalia, Algeria, etc. are facing the most severe pressures by the enemies of Islam and each day dozens are rolled in blood. But what the Muslim-inhabited Republic of Tajikistan is facing, which may be characterized as multiplied oppression of the Muslims in that country, is that even the news on the pitiless massacres and people's expulsion from their homes, which should be relayed for Muslims in other countries to hear, is not being heard. Even their Iranian brothers and sisters are not very well informed about the oppression of the Farsi-speaking Tajik Muslims on charges of their interest in their Islamic values and their national identity. The Tajiks expect the Muslim nation and Government of Iran to rush to their aid in these difficult days and the Islamic Republic's official institutions and especially the Foreign Ministry shoulder a heavy responsibility in this. Unfortunately they have not paid enough attention to this responsibility.

Pakistan

Sharif Meets With Uzbek Leader in Switzerland

BK3101095693 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 31 Jan 93

[Text] Prime Minister Mohammad Nawaz Sharif and Uzbek President Islam Karimov have held talks [in Davos, Switzerland] on accelerating the process of economic cooperation between the two countries and expanding it. Finance Minister Sartaj Aziz, who was present during the talks, later told ASSOCIATED PRESS OF PAKISTAN that the two leaders wanted to start cooperation in all fields in the shortest possible time. They also exchanged views on the efforts to establish peace in Afghanistan. Sartaj Aziz said that communications, special cooperation in the trade sector, joint ventures, and economic relations were among the topics which came up for discussion during the talks. Views were also exchanged on the next meeting of the Economic Cooperation Organization scheduled to be held in Quetta.

U.S. Policy on Nuclear Proliferation 'Discriminatory'

BK0202102993 Islamabad THE PAKISTAN TIMES in English 2 Feb 93 p 6

[Editorial: "A Timely Call"]

[Text] Senate Chairman Wasim Sajjad has called upon the new US Administration to review the outdated Pressler Amendment which has failed to check nuclear proliferation in the South Asion region in view of the nuclear supremacy achieved by India. New Delhi has not only developed nuclear bombs but is also producing missile systems which would be advanced enough by the year 2000 to hit even the targets in the US. The continued existence of the Pressler Amendment would thus not only be damaging to the American interests in this region but would also have a severely negative impact on Pak-US relations. He hoped the Clinton Administration would come up with a proposal which could genuinely control nuclear proliferation in South Asia on the basis of equality and non-discrimination. He said it should also be noted by the US policymakers that although the cold war had come to an end, Russia, as a country, has the potential to again become a superpower. Therefore in the existing circumstances, there is a need for the US to adopt a more comprehensive and balanced approach to tackle the nuclear issue. Meanwhile, the prestigious NEW YORK TIMES has in its editorial urged the US and its Western allies to use their leverage to persuade India to stop manufacturing nuclear weapons so as to end the risk of a nuclear war in South Asia. The paper said that India has been "balking" on the nuclear issue.

Unfortunately, the Pressler Amendment, with its avowed objective of achieving non-proliferation of nuclear weapons in the region, has been used as a stick to beat Pakistan with on one pretext or the other. Pakistan has often been singled out for discriminatory treament by the developed world, especially by the US, in matters having a crucial bearing on its technlogical progress and survival. An instance of such discrimination was the reversal in 1991 by a joint session of the House of Representatives and the US Senate of an earlier decision under which the US President was required to certify the non-possession by both India and Pakistan of military capability in nuclear arms in order for them to qualify for US aid. The reversal made the discriminatory law applicable only to Pakistan while India, despite its demonstrable nuclear capability, was given a blanket exception. This was done despite the fact that India had already become the world's sixth confirmed nuclear power way back in 1974 with the explosion of its "peaceful" nuclear device! New Delhi has since entered the missile age with the development of its surface-to-suiface missiles capable of carrying nuclear warheads to long-distance targets. In addition, it has brazenly refused to sign the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) in spite of the fact that China has already done so; and Pakistan has expressed its readiness time and again to sign it simultaneously with India. Senate Chairman Wasim Sajjad's call to the new US Administration to review the outdated Pressler Amendment is thus both timely and crucial. The Clinton administration should therefore do away with this discriminatory law and instead concentrate on finding ways and means to check the Indian nuclear ambitions which are already threatening the peace and stability of this region.

Peace Corps Volunteers Asked To Leave Country

BK0102080393 Lahore PAKISTAN in Urdu 31 Jan 93 p 1

[Text] Bahawalpur (PAKISTAN PRESS INTERNATIONAL)—The Government of Pakistan has asked all U.S. Peace Corps volunteers to leave the country immediately after the completion of their tenure and has refused to extend the terms of their conctracts. The volunteers had come to Pakistan to offer free services in Pakistani educational institutions. The government has imposed a ban on their entry and the volunteers currently offering their services have been asked to leave the country immediately. It should be noted that at present thousands of U.S. Peace Corps volunteers are rendering free services in various educational institutions in Pakistan.

Newspapers Comment on Yeltsin Visit to India

New Ties in Line With Reality

BK3001144393 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 30 Jan 93 p 6

[Editorial: "Major Shift in Indo-Russian Ties"]

[Text] Russian President Boris Yeltsin, who has been on a three-day visit to India, categorically stated on Thursday [28 January] that his country would not share any geopolitical or geostrategic interests with India, and that only economic and non-security ends would characterise their mutual relationship in future. Though much to the annoyance of the Indian leadership, Mr Yeltsin also made it clear that the new treaty on friendship and cooperation, concluded during the visit, would in no way build on the terms and conditions of their two-decade old security agreement which, during the Cold War years of 70s and 80s, had guaranteed Soviet military support to India in the case of its war either with China or Pakistan. With the Russian declaration not to back India against any "Third Country," begins an era of Russo-Indian relationship based on mutually beneficial terms. Such a development, beyond any doubt, conforms to the new global realities requiring an increased interstate cooperation on social and economic matters.

Since the collapse of the Soviet Union, India's relations with Russia had gradually been dampening primarily due to their failure to settle the dispute over the amount of debt India owed to the main successor of the former Soviet Union, that is, Russia. For over four decades India remained the main trade partner of the Soviet Union. It was one of the largest beneficiaries of the former Kremlin policy of supplying arms to devleoping countries with little means of paying for them. And, therefore, it, according to Russian estimates, owed 16 billion dollars in debt to the former Soviet Union. After agreeing that the skewed exchange rate was forcing India to pay more for its credit than they are worth, the Russian leadership has finally agreed to allow India a concession of 32 per cent reduction in the amount of such debt. That paves the way for the resumption of Russian oil suplies for India and further progress on joint ventures and technology transfer regarding Indian armaments.

However, despite resolving the problem of Indian debt, and ensuring a long-term bilaterally beneficial socioeconomic relationship, Yeltsin's visit to New Delhi also guarantees India continuation of Russian assistance in defence purchases, availability and joint manufacturing of military spare parts and hardware. And this is something the rest of the countries of South Asia, particularly Pakistan, must be concerned about. Mr Yeltsin has also stated that Russia would not budge from transferring the Russian rocket technology to India which, as the US State Department official termed last year, "could be helpful to India's ballistic nuclear missile programme." Mr Yeltsin has also supported the Indian stand regarding occupied Kashmir, saying "Kashmir is an integral part of India," and that Russia would support India at the Scurity Council whenever the issue of Kashmir would be addressed by the UN. Such a Russian approach towards an international issue is highly condemnable, given the kind of atrocities the Indians are committing against the innocent Kashmiri Muslims. Besides castigating the Russian attitude on the issue of Kashmir at the diplomatic level, the Government of Pakistan must also be quick in consolidating its bilateral economic ties with Russia. Let's not forget that, apart from Israel, India is also one of the non-Muslim countries competing with the Muslim states for economic influence in Central Asia—the region where Russia still enjoys significant social, economic and political clout.

Stand on Kashmir Criticized

BK3101155993 Islamabad THE PAKISTAN TIMES in English 31 Jan 93 p 6

[Editorial: "A Contradictory Stand"]

[Text] Russian President Boris Yeltsin has called for normalisation of Indo-Pak relations marred by various irritants, including the prolonged Kashmir dispute, and offered to "assist India and Pakistan in any way that would be admissible" in sorting out the differences between the two countries. Addressing Indian Parliamentarians in New Delhi, he said he intended to improve Russia's ties with all Asian countries, including Pakistan. In addition to a friendship treaty signed on Thursday, Mr. Yeltsin said Russia and India had also signed a new defence agreement guaranteeing India the supply of conventional military hardware. In the same breath, he declared that Russia did not intend to offer any military aid to Pakistan. Mr. Yeltsin also reiterated Russia's "firm and unwavering" support to India's position on Kashmir. Explaining Russian stand on the Kashmir dispute later at a Press conference, he said, "We don't want any break with Pakistan, but there are principled positions against which we would not like to go." He stated that Russia sustained the Indian position on Kashmir and supported the unity and integrity of

India. Besides the friendship pact, ten bilateral agreements in political, economic, defence, science and technology, trade and information areas were also signed by the visiting Russian President with Indian leaders. He later declared that Moscow would also go ahead with its controversial sale of rocket technology to India.

Even a cursory glance through the contents of the Russian President's speech in the Indian Parliament and his subsequent statement at a Press conference exposes the contradictions inherent in the Russian leader's stance on the Kashmir dispute. For all practical purposes, Mr. Yeltsin came out in support of India's claim on occupied Kashmir, thus weakeningthe prospects of a regional peace which he himself avowed his cousntry wished was established. Further, the pacts he signed during his visit, envisioning a closer Indo-Russian cooperation in defence, substantially obstruct the possibility of peace being established in the region, because such unilaternal provision of defence-related aid to New Delhi is fraught with the likelihood of an escalation of tension in the region. Mr. Yeltsin has called for normalization of relations between India and Pakistan, whichs has been a strong desire of Islamabad as well. But the biggest hurdle in the way of such a normalization has been India's continued occupation of the Valley in utter disregard of the wishes of Kashmiri people who have been forced to wage armed resistance against the brutal Indian repression. So ruthless has been the reign of terror let loose in the Valley by the Indian army and police that British Prime Minister John Major and the US State Department recently called for resolution of the dispute in accordance with the wishes of the Kashmiri people. India has consistently denied them the right to self-determination which was guaranteed under various UN resolutions on the issue. It is thus unbecoming for the leader of a major world power to ignore the provisions of UN resolutions while setting out his country's stand on a disputed territory like Kashmir. It is hoped the Russian leadership will realise the inherent inconsistency of its stand on the Kashmir issue and bring it in line which the aspirations of the oppressed people of Kashmir.

Russian 'Animosity' Seen

BK0202124793 Rawalpindi NAWA-I-WAQT in Urdu 31 Jan 93 p 4

[Editorial: "Kashmir—Russia's Usual Animosity and Pakistan's Just Stand"]

[Text] In an interview with CNN, Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif has said that "Pakistan will accept only that solution to the Kashmir issue that is based on UN resolutions which have been accepted by both India and Pakistan." Pakistan's stand on Kashmir is based entirely on truth and realism and the principles of international justice, while New Delhi has consistently claimed that Kashmir is an integral part of India.

Meanwhile, Russian President Boris Yeltsin, during his visit to India, stated that Moscow thinks India's stand on Kashmir is based on truth. Unfortunately, Russia has always supported India on the question of Kashmir and it was only with Moscow's encouragement—actually its practical military aid and political and moral support—that India committed aggressions against Pakistan on the Kashmir issue. Pakistan's eastern arm was dismembered as a result of 1971 aggression and now India, with the help of Russian arms, is posing a constant threat to what remains of Pakistan. In the mean time, Indian forces have unleashed a reign of terror and murder throughout the length and breadth of occupied Kashmir to suppress the movement for freedom. They have even surpassed the records of Nazi and Jewish forces in victimizing and gang-raping Kashmiri women. The former Soviet Union's support for such Indian activities was comprehensible in the past; but, surprisingly, even after the disintegration of the Soviet Union, there has been no change in Russia's stand. It rather appears standing shoulder to shoulder with India in the latter's animosity toward Pakistan, and after his arrival in India the Russian president seems to be becoming a source of encouragement and incitement to New Delhi.

We thought the Russians must have learned a lesson after the disintegration of the former Soviet Union and the elimination of communism. Statements by some Russian leaders also gave this impression, but the irony is that there has been no change in Russia's attitude at all. It is also ironic that Pakistan's friend of yesteryear, the United States, has not only left Pakistan in the lurch but also turned against it after the fulfillment of its objectives and interests. Meanwhile, on the other hand, Russia has been constantly supporting India, including in its wrongful activities. It seems, therefore, that India now enjoys the support of both the sole surviving superpower as well as the previous superpower. This situation is fraught with serious implications and it is the duty of the Islamic world to cast off its diffidence, hesitation, and defenselessness and become active and vibrant, and instead of letting India grab the permanent seat at the UN Security Council with Russia's help and increasing its malevolence, the Islamic community should strive to secure for itself that permanent seat of the UN Security Council to correct the power equilibrium at the world body. If, with U.S. and Russian help, India becomes a permanent member of the UN Security Council, it will be a tragedy not only for Pakistan but also for the entire Islamic world, and no hope for justice toward Muslims will be left at the United Nations. Currently, there are a number of Security Council resolutions on Palestine, Kashmir, and Bosnia but nobody cares about their implementation nor has there been any strong and effective protest from the Security Council against the ongoing repression and brutalities in these regions. If the Islamic Conference Organization could demand the convening of a special meeting of the UN Security Council on the Bosnian issue, then it should also call for a similar sitting of the Security Council on the Kashmir question and force India to hold a plebiscite to help settle the Kashmir problem.

International Isolation Feared

BK3101155393 Islamabad THE PAKISTAN OBSERVER in English 31 Jan 93 p 6

[Editorial: "Pakistan's International Isolation"]

[Text] According to a news story Russian President Boris Yeltsin, during his official visit to India, promised to support Indian viewpoint on Kashmir at the United Nations. He also rejected the US opposition over the deal for providing rocket engines to India which wants to acquire these to launch its satellite. As if that was not enough to worry our foreign policy vicars, visiting Russian President assured his hosts that he would not extend military or technical aid to Pakistan. If we put this piece of news alongside another story which hit the headlines a few days ago about the statements of John Major, in which he indirectly blamed Pakistan for giving military assistance to the on-going revolt in Kashmir, we will be horrified. The British leader also advised the parties concerned to resolve the issue through bilateral talks, implying that the UN resolutions on Kashmir have lost their relevance. The US which has been Pakistan's staunchest ally during the cold war, and heavily relied on Pakistan to roll back the expansion of the Soviet empire, has executed a U-turn in its policies towards Pakistan.

Our country made immense social, economic and political sacrifices to ensure the success of Afghan Jehad, yet when Soviet Union disintegrated, a development in which we played no small part, our Washington allies grew cold and frosty. Now the State Department is planning to declare Pakistan a terrorist state with all that it implies. After the collapse of Communism there were bound to be new alignments. It was the job of our Foreign Office to make a correct assessment of new geo-political realities and rearrange our priorities to promote our national interests. All indications are that our leaders have miserably failed to steer the nation along a sensible course.

One is forced to make two observations, none of which is very complimentary to our foreign policymakers. Either they have been caught napping at the end of the cold war and are still trying to take in the momentous changes that have overwhelmed them. The second possibility is that the insulated bureaucrats in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs are living in a dream world utterly removed from reality. The rosy picture painted by one of our top diplomats on Pak-Russian relations after his visit to Moscow last year proves the point. In the past whenever we received rebuffs from world powers, we drew comfort from our aliance with China. That source of strength, too, it appears, is subtly slipping from us. There are strong indications that Russia and India are mending their fences with China and efforts are underway to form a new alliance of these three regional giants.

All these developments call for a revolutionary reappraisal of our foreign relations. In today's world, when we have reached such a level of inter-dependence that the globe has been termed as a village, to be cut off from all profitable alliances and to stand alone in the sea of hostility is to court a disaster of no ordinary magnitude. Our very survival is under threat. In this hour of extreme peril, the leaders of the naton must rationally assess all our options and give new and dynamic direction to four relations with the rest of the world.

Bhutto Travels to London for Kidney Treatment

BK3001142993 Islamabad THE PAKISTAN TIMES in English 30 Jan 93 p 1

[Text] Islamabad, Jan 29—Ms. Benazir Bhutto, the Leader of the Opposition in the National Assembly, left for London from Karachi on Friday for medical checkup.

Sources close to the Bhutto family, meanwhile confided to this scribe that Ms. Benazir Bhutto is most likely to have her third child in second week of April.

The sources further revealed that her doctors have predicted April 10 as expected delivery date.

Ms. Bhutto may have certain complications in the said operation as she already had developed kidney infection. The infection grew to the serious extent that was why, the family sources maintained, her physicians advised her to get herself treated in London.

Ms. Bhutto, the family sources also revealed, had felt serious pain in her left kidney after the press conference she addressed the other day. She was rushed to the Kidney Centre, Karachi where after preliminary treatment and check up, she was advised the same.

Sri Lanka

Security Forces Repulse LTTE Attack in Vavuniya

BK0202115493 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English 1045 GMT 2 Feb 93

[Text] The security forces successfully repulsed an attack of LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] terrorists at (Veeravikumpura) bunker line in the Vavuniya District. A large number of terrorists attacked the bunker line with rocket-propelled grenades, Arul grenades, and small-arms fire with a view to penetrate the defenses. The troops retaliated by inflicting heavy terrorist casualties. Eight to 10 LTTE terrorists were killed in the confrontation. LTTE subgroup leader, Ravichandran, was also among those killed. Additional troops were deployed in the area and the search operations were conducted to clear the area from Cheddikulam to (Masalkutti). Meanwhile, the Joint Operations Command [JOC] in a news release said that the security forces have decided to provide an alternative route other than the Elephant Pass route for civilians. In consequence of this decision to consider the possibility of an alternative route via (Sangupuddi), the JOC is seeking assistance and the cooperation of the UNHCR [United Nations High Commission for Refugees] and the ICRC [International Committee of the Red Cross] organizations to provide a safe and convenient alternative route for the civilians to move to and from the Jaffna Peninsula.